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Barak: Meiri will not be court-martialed

ALON PINKAS and JON IMMANUEL

RESERVIST Shmuel Meiri, who was attacked by a mob in Ramallah last week, will not be court-martialed for failing to carry out orders, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak told the cabinet yesterday.

Meiri was released from hospital yesterday and ordered by the IDF Spokesman not to speak to reporters. All he would tell reporters was that he was feeling well and was going home to rest.

The army indicated late last week that Meiri would probably be tried for getting lost in Ramallah, failing to use his weapon, and handing it to a Fatah activist, who later turned it in to police.

But the IDF came under heavy criticism from politicians and some of the media for even contemplating trying a soldier for saving his life under adverse circumstances.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who last week described the incident as "disgraceful," reportedly told the cabinet that Meiri should have used army-provided transportation rather than drive his car alone through Ramallah.

Press photographers who took pictures of the mob have been threatened in wall slogans and in a leaflet written by Fatah supporters in Ramallah.

The threats say that they helped identify Fatah activists in the crowd who are now being arrested by the General Security Service.

"We are going to break the hands which hold the camera and pluck out the eyes of those who look through the lens," a leaflet distributed in the name of Fatah said.

"The media's job should be honest. Don't make it dirty. Fatah will get anyone who collaborates with the enemy," one wall slogan said.

Immediately after the attack last Wednesday photographers were accused by Israelis of not helping Meiri.

One photographer said that Jericho preventive security chief Col. Jibril Rajoub was contacted in the hope that he would warn Fatah activists against attacking the photographers. They say they are worried about returning to Ramallah until the situation cools down.

"No one has asked me to do anything in this matter," Rajoub, who is known to have a network of unofficial Fatah security people outside Jericho, said.

He said he doubts that Fatah was involved in the attack on Meiri. "It was initiated by individuals."

A knowledgeable security source said that he knows of at least eight Fatah activists who had been arrested. "Most were 20 to 30. One is 35. They were not kids. They include people who have been in prison two or three times. I don't say it was organized. It was worse for being spontaneous."

The alleged involvement of Fatah supporters has caused embarrassment in official Fatah circles who denied that the leaflet threatening photographers, and thus implicating Fatah in the attack, was an authorized leaflet.

Meanwhile, a Ramallah woman who stabbed a policeman in Jerusalem Friday, has confessed to taking part in the mob attack on Meiri, police said. Nahiyah Taha, 30, was remanded for 15 days by Jerusalem Magistrate's Court.

"I was by chance in the center of Ramallah when I saw a bunch of youths throwing stones at an Israeli vehicle," Taha allegedly told police. "I saw the soldier in the car, and started throwing stones myself."

MK Ariel Sharon (Likud) yesterday accused the politicians and government of being responsible for the mob attack on Meiri and said they should be put on trial, not the soldier.

Sharon charged that certain senior officers are "turning into politicians. We saw what happened at Netzarim. Until a public campaign was launched, and I appealed to the prime minister, the soldiers there were exposed and abandoned. Definitely not. This is all a part of an ongoing breaking down of the system and it's extremely dangerous."

Bill Hurman and Michal Yudelman contributed to this report.



A Russian general yesterday stands over the body of a Russian soldier killed in an incident late Saturday near the village of Nesterovskaya in Chechnya. (AP)

Russian troops advance on Grozny

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — Russian troops began moving toward the capital of the breakaway republic of Chechnya last night in heavy fighting with separatist forces, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

The report of the new Russian advance came shortly after Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev told a news conference he would not meet with representatives of President Boris Yeltsin, a meeting Yeltsin proposed yesterday as a last-ditch effort at a negotiated settlement.

The Russian troops, sent into the Caucasus Mountain republic a week ago, had been dug in outside Grozny while Moscow gave Dudayev until midnight Saturday to disarm his forces. He refused, demanding that Russian troops pull out.

Warplanes that had bombed targets across the rebel republic earlier yesterday were grounded in the evening by bad weather, ITAR-Tass said.

Ivan Rybkin, speaker of the lower house of Russia's parliament, recalled a group of deputies from Chechnya, the report said, but gave no reason.

Yeltsin has staked considerable political capital on resolving the conflict quickly and with minimum casualties. The military offensive in the mostly Muslim republic of about 1.2 million people is generally unpopular, not only with the public but

among Russian troops.

Moscow sent 10,000 to 40,000 troops into the southern republic to put down an independence drive.

Dudayev told the news conference in Grozny that he himself would meet only with Yeltsin or Russia's prime minister, saying the Chechen people "will not allow me to meet with anyone else," ITAR-Tass and the Interfax news agency reported.

The Russian government had said it would use force "humanely," and urged women, children, and non-combatants to leave Grozny. An estimated 67,000 to 100,000 refugees have fled to neighboring Ingushetia.

Many men have stayed to fight. "Russia must withdraw its forces quickly and recognize our political independence," a defiant Chechen Vice President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev said.

Yesterday morning, Russian planes targeted military equipment and five bridges across the Terek River, which divides Chechnya, ITAR-Tass said. Interfax said electrical stations on Grozny's outskirts also were hit, and the villages of Pervomayskoye, northeast of Grozny, and Khan-Kala, an eastern suburb.

Grozny's television tower was bombed, knocking out broadcasts, reports said.

Rabin to decide on bourse tax today

JOSE ROSENFELD, and RACHEL NEIMAN

UNCERTAINTY over the future of the capital gains tax failed to dissipate yesterday, as Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's thoughts on the subject remain the best-kept secret in town.

Back from a nine-day absence, Rabin spent the day meeting with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish to hear their assessments on the tax and the economy.

Shohat is to meet today with Rabin, who is expected to announce his decision on whether to go ahead with the tax, delay its imposition, or cancel it altogether, after meeting with the Labor Party faction.

Although there was much speculation the cabinet would discuss the issue at its weekly meeting, it did not come up.

On his return flight from the Far East, Rabin hinted he would not only deal with the narrow issue of the tax, but the broader problems that are plaguing the economy.

"We must find solutions soon

to a number of faults that have been discovered," he told reporters. "I see there will be a need for two things: restoring stability and, as prime minister, I must be more involved in these issues."

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange continued its now-you-see-it, now-you-don't trend yesterday, falling 1.68 percent to 161.37 on a slim turnover of NIS 84.2 million.

The lack of activity was attributed to investors waiting for Rabin's announcement on the capital gains tax. Rabin's trip to Japan and Korea was seen as positive, but as not affecting the immediate future.

The market's unsteadiness was reflected in drops in all sectors. Bank stocks fell 2%, insurance 2.18%, real estate and agriculture 1.56%, and industry 1.5%.

Koor slipped 1.5%, ICL fell 0.75% and Teva declined 1.25%. Elbit was unchanged despite reports the company had closed a deal with the Korean air force.

Overall there was a feeling that things would not change until the big picture is settled and investors felt safe enough to reenter the market.

"What's worrisome are not the losses; we've seen days worse than this," said one broker. "What's worrisome are the low turnovers and the lack of interest."

"Even after my meeting with the prime minister, I remain convinced that the capital gains tax should go ahead as planned. I will make a final decision after our discussions tomorrow," Shohat said.

He said the talks did not exclusively deal with the tax, but on a broad range of economic issues.

Shohat said Rabin did not reveal his stance on the capital gains tax and only listened to his assessments during the meeting.

Later in the day, Shohat appeared to soften his position when he said that the law should go into force in January and that if any changes are needed, they could be legislated later.

Harish said that Rabin sees the tax in the context of recurring economic growth.

"Rabin will meet with experts to see what elements are necessary to ensure economic growth," he said. "The capital gains tax is only one of the elements. The ultimate goal is to revive the stock market."

Military officers to join talks with Syria

DAVID MAKOVSKY

SENIOR Israeli and Syrian military officers are this week expected to join the ongoing quiet talks being held by senior officials from both countries and the US in Washington.

Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich and Syrian Ambassador Walid Muallem have been meeting with US special Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross for months, but there has been no breakthrough.

The meeting involving the officers, which is likely to include a high-ranking US officer as well, is apparently designed to discuss Golan Heights security arrangements. The meeting is a direct result of President Bill Clinton's and Secretary of State Warren Christopher's personal intervention with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has made agreeing with Syria on security arrangements a pivotal precondition for any withdrawal on the Golan Heights.

Speculation on the identity of the Israeli officer involved in the

talks has centered on outgoing Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak, OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Uri Saguy, and OC Planning Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan.

Dayan has drawn the most attention, since he led negotiations with Palestinians on security arrangements, and his Planning Branch has reportedly been working on withdrawal scenarios.

Rabin has instructed subordinates not to speak with reporters on the issue, fearing a leak could thwart the negotiations. A few weeks ago, Rabin told the cabinet that a leak was to blame for the talks not being held in early November.

Senior US officials have also been quiet about this. Only last week, did the State Department implicitly acknowledge publicly that the Rabinovich-Muallem talks even exist.

Meanwhile, in an interview that appears in the latest edition of *US News and World Report*, Barak said a military confronta-

tion with Syria is "very probable" if the peace process fails.

"Viewed from a historical perspective, a long stalemate [in negotiations] makes another confrontation very probable," Barak said. "There is no timetable, but in an historic sense, it starts the countdown. You don't know if it will take place in two or five years; the nature of the confrontation is unknown, as is who else will be involved."

Several months ago, Rabin said he thought there could be war with Syria within two to three years in the event that peace talks with Damascus fail.

President Hafez Assad on Sunday said Syria sincerely seeks peace, but would "not relinquish its lands and rights" in the process. Assad, speaking to a delegation of Arab lawyers at the end of a two-day conference marking the 50th anniversary of the Arab lawyers' federation, said Syria is "sincere in pushing the peace process to its target. But it does not agree to any step prejudicial to its national security."

Storms continue

DAVID RUDGE

STORMS swept many parts of the country yesterday, dumping snow on Mount Hermon and causing chaos on many roads.

Dozens of people were injured, most of them lightly, in more than 30 weather-related road accidents throughout the country.

On the Coastal Road seven passengers were lightly injured when an Egged bus overturned and crashed into a tree. The spate of accidents prompted police to reiterate warnings to motorists to drive with extra care on slippery roads.

The Meteorological Service said the stormy weather would continue through tomorrow before being replaced by cloudy but warmer weather on Wednesday.

The forecast today is for heavy rain, accompanied by occasional thunderstorms and strong gusts of wind, in most of the country.

Oren Edri tells court of 'brutal' incarceration

LT. Oren Edri, charged with stealing IDF weapons and illegal weapons training in connection with an alleged Jewish terrorist underground, told the Jaffa Military Court yesterday that, after his arrest in September, he was kept in a cell that was lit at all times and was crawling with rats.

"I tried to sleep," Edri said. "I tied my shirt around my eyes because there was light all the time. Suddenly, I awoke with a pain in my right ear, and I saw a rat. I moved my hand and felt another rat brush against it. I killed them and threw them in the toilet."

"After that another 10 rats appeared. I chased them, killed them and threw them into the stinking toilet. If I had been captured by an enemy I would have felt better," he said.

Edri, testifying at his trial for the first time, spent several hours denying the charges and describing the "emotional tortures" he

was put through during his questioning by the police and the General Security Service.

After a period during which he was forbidden to pray, he was finally allowed to do so, but the GSS investigators teased him.

"They would say 'God isn't tuned in today,' and ask if I was broadcasting on AM or FM, or say there was nothing for me to pray for. I felt degraded. They treated me, an IDF officer, in a brutal manner, physically and verbally, for things that never happened."

His cell, he said, was two meters by 1.5 m. "It stank, with the toilet filled with excrement, two lights that were on all the time, walls filled with Hamas graffiti, and a container with some smelly water. There was a tray with something rotting on it. I couldn't believe that I, IDF officer Oren Edri, was in a cell like this." (Ium)

Schach, Gerer rebbe reject Peres's apology

HERB KEINON

RABBIS Eliezer Schach and Moshe Hager, the Gerer rebbe, yesterday served notice on Foreign Minister Shimon Peres that haredi support means having to say more than just "I'm sorry."

They published statements making it clear they do not accept Peres's apology over his remarks last week in the Knesset about King David.

Nevertheless, Schach and Hager, the spiritual mentors of United Torah Judaism, have not yet decided whether to instruct their party's MKs to carry on with its no-confidence motion, scheduled to be debated today.

The National Religious Party and Moledet have submitted similar no-confidence motions.

In the midst of a heated exchange on Wednesday, Peres

said from the podium he does not accept everything done by King David "on the ground [and] on the roofs," a reference to David's affair with Bathsheba.

Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef is still studying Peres's letter of apology to see if it suffices, or if there is a need for further apology, Shas MK Shlomo Benizri said.

Peres issued an immediate clarification of his remarks Wednesday night, saying he did not intend harming anyone's sensibilities. On Friday, he sent a letter of apology to the heads of Shas and Agudat Yisrael.

Asked whether the apology is enough for him, Benizri said, "This is a halachic question that

the rabbis must decide." He said he does not know when Yosef would issue an opinion.

UTJ MK Avraham Ravitz said the halachic question Schach and Hager are debating is whether the no-confidence motion would lead to additional mockery if the whole issue of King David's affair is dragged back into the Knesset.

"The question is whether we should lend a hand to turning King David into a springboard for populist speeches and for maneuvering for the primaries," Ravitz said.

Ravitz added that the question would be different if it seemed possible to bring down the government.

Hager, the Gerer rebbe and head of Agudat Yisrael's Council of Sages, wrote that, "if someone who is distanced from Torah and mitzvot, who does not have an idea about the holiness and righteousness of King David, has wagged his tongue and insulted what is holy, I am obliged to protest against his words that were said in public."

Schach was equally blunt. He said that the faithful are obligated to protest "so that these words do not make an impression on us. Therefore I call upon the nation of God to become strong for the sake of Torah, and not - God forbid - be counted among those who give them strength."

The Knesset will also vote on a no-confidence motion over the Yit'ud bill.

Shalgi Commission findings to be presented today

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin is due this morning to receive the Shalgi Commission report on the

alleged disappearances of Yemenite children in the 1940s and 1950s.

The commission was established following accusations by Yemenite leaders that thousands of Yemenite children disappeared and that many of them were kidnapped.

The commission was established in 1988.

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AND ALL TRAVEL AGENTS



Foreign Minister Shimon Peres (right) drinks a toast yesterday in Tel Aviv with Russian poet Yevgeni Yevtushenko, author of the poem "Babi Yar." (Yitzhak Elharaz/Scoop 80)

Sharon suggests open primaries for single list in right-wing camp

Likud will not honor accord dismantling Golan settlements - Sharon

ALL right-wing and religious parties should run as one list in the next Knesset elections and elect their leader via primaries, MK Ariel Sharon said yesterday.

Sharon told political reporters he is as determined as ever to run for prime minister in these primaries, in an open challenge to Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu's leadership.

Asked whether he was now co-operating with Netanyahu, Sharon said that basically nothing has changed in the Likud leadership and that he is not involved in internal politics. However, he said he insists on being involved in determining the Likud's stands on political and security affairs.

On another issue, Sharon said

that if the Likud returns to power after the next elections, it will not honor any agreement with Syria requiring Israel to dismantle Golan Heights settlements.

"The Likud's platform must state unequivocally that it is against any withdrawal from the Golan and will not do so even if an agreement to that effect has already been signed," Sharon told political reporters in Tel Aviv.

Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu responded yesterday that an agreement with Syria would be brought to the nation's decision in the next elections.

As for the Likud's chances in the next elections, Sharon warned against what he called a feeling of complacency in the party, despite the Rabin government's malfunctions and Netanyahu's rise in the polls. "It is still too early to sew ministers' suits," said Sharon.

The surest way to win the elections and replace the existing government, Sharon said, is to have the national camp run on one bloc, "because what is certain is that this government must be replaced."

Sharon noted that Rabin's coalition has 56 mandates and is

supported from the outside by "two anti-Zionist, anti-Jewish, and anti-Israel parties, while the life and death issues here concern only the Jews."

The Likud platform, said Sharon, must clearly state that the party will immediately close PLO offices in Jerusalem and transfer them to Gaza or Jericho, and that nobody but Israel has any status at all on the Temple Mount.

Sharon reiterated his proposal for a national unity government. The Likud's participation, he said, would help prevent further disasters, after the government has already destroyed agriculture, wreaked havoc on the stock exchange, and completely botched up the security situation.

Uzi Landau hopes to repeal direct election of premier

LIKUD MK Uzi Landau intends to introduce a bill repealing the law for the direct election of the prime minister.

The next elections, scheduled for November 1996, will be the first in which the prime minister will be directly elected. There will be separate ballots for prime minister and Knesset lists.

Landau admitted yesterday that he does not have the blessing of party chairman Binyamin Netanyahu. But he pointed out that Likud institutions opposed the direct election bill when it went before the Knesset several years ago, and that he is therefore working within the framework of

SARAH HONIG

official Likud decisions.

Landau argues that, "The direct election law is a sham, as it is not backed by other legislative and constitutional corrections to the existing situation. It could produce major paralysis of the system, should a prime minister of one party be elected and a Knesset dominated by another party. It also places unprecedented power in the hands of a single man, without providing the proper system of checks and balances."

Landau received some support from within Labor, but no prom-

ises of votes.

"I always thought the direct elections was a bad idea and I was always against it," Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said. "The only reason I voted for the law was because of party discipline - and if party discipline is again imposed, I will once more vote against my conscience and have no choice but to oppose the Landau bill."

"However, I agree with the Landau bill. In this age of TV, we have personal elections anyhow, and the law invites unnecessary complications and dangers. The best thing we can do is abolish it before it is implemented."

MK Salmovitz wants out of 'marriage from hell' with Yi'ud

YI'UD MK Esther Salmovitz yesterday pleaded with her two fellow faction members to split from her, so she could be released from Yi'ud and legally rejoin her original party, Tsomet.

"I wish to make this a civilized divorce, but they want to trap me in this marriage from hell," she argued.

Yi'ud was formed when the three MKs broke away from Tsomet in February. Salmovitz is at odds with partners Gonen Segov and Alex Goldfarb, because she adamantly refuses to enter the coalition with them. Segov is slated to be appointed Energy Minister and Goldfarb a deputy mini-

SARAH HONIG

ter if the faction joins the government.

Salmovitz said that since all of them "were elected on the Tsomet platform, which opposes ceding territory, joining the coalition means cheating our voters."

By law, a single MK cannot split off from the list on which he or she was elected. To do so means the MK's financial allocation would be stopped. The MK would also be prohibited from running in the next elections on any list, unless he or she resigns from the House six months before the elections.

These limitations do not apply

if at least one-third of a faction splits off, but only if that one-third consists of more than a single MK. So Salmovitz now finds herself "imprisoned in Yi'ud unless the other two Yi'ud MKs split off from me. They can do this being a twosome and not a single MK," she explained.

It is known that Salmovitz would like to return to Tsomet. But the Yi'ud MKs are thought unlikely to let her off the hook. They are seeking to force her into the coalition with them and if she persists in standing her ground, they will institute moves to deprive her of her seats on Knesset committees, sources said.

Accident investigations to remain with IDF

ALON PINKAS

PUBLIC criticism of the army's investigation and discipline procedures following training accidents is exaggerated, certainly when compared to the more lenient way civilian courts treat similar cases, Judge Advocate-General Brig.-Gen. Ilan Schiff said yesterday.

Schiff said the IDF plans to remain responsible for these investigations, denying reports it is considering allowing civilian committees to conduct them. Such a demand has been frequently made by families of soldiers killed in training and other accidents.

Speaking to reporters on the first day of "Law Week" in the IDF, Schiff remarked that a recent decision by a military court suggesting that disciplinary action in the case of army accidents should not be handled by the military courts was misconstrued.

He was referring to the trial of Lt.-Col. Lior Shalev, who was convicted two weeks ago of negligence in the death of a soldier who fell into a well during navigation training.

The military court that convicted and sentenced Shalev trial recommended that culpability in accidents be determined by a committee headed by a retired chief of general staff and a retired civilian judge, rather than through a legal procedure.

The court, said Schiff, had simply meant that since these accidents have no criminal intent or element, "The shift should be put on command and disciplinary investigations rather than legal processes," but not that investigations be removed from the army's purview.

Schiff said his office is currently reviewing and updating military regulations in accordance with the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom. The review was initiated after it was found that regulations forbidding soldiers to travel to their bases in private cars contradict the clause in the Basic Law ensuring freedom of movement.

Reviewing this year's work, Schiff said that 15,000 cases were dealt with, 60% of which related to soldiers who went AWOL.

Hizbullah vows to hold worldwide suicide raids

DAVID RUDGE and News Agencies

HIZBULLAH responded to Israeli threats of military action yesterday by vowing its militant fighters would wage suicide raids on Israeli targets worldwide.

"I say to ... all the enemy's leaders that Islam ... the Islam of strugglers and martyrs, is coming to you Jews; in south Lebanon, Palestine and all over the world. It will vanquish you," Hizbullah chief Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said.

He was speaking at the funeral of four guerrillas killed in a December 11 clash in the security zone in which one IDF soldier died.

"Our strugglers can reach any place where the enemy is found," Nasrallah's deputy, Sheikh Na'iem Qassem, said at a similar rally in Nabatiya.

Four days after the clash, Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak said the IDF is free to strike at Hizbullah wherever it wants in

Lebanon, regardless of the effect on Middle East peace talks.

"We promise no immunity to Hizbullah anywhere throughout Lebanon, and what we need to do, we will do," Barak said.

But Nasrallah yesterday brushed aside Barak's threat and similar remarks from the new OC Northern Command, Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine, who said the clash showed Israel must go on the attack against Hizbullah in south Lebanon.

Meanwhile, an IDF position twice came under fire yesterday in the eastern sector of the security zone.

The position at Tel Dabsha initially came under mortar and light weapons fire. It was later sprayed with automatic weapon fire.

There were no casualties, and IDF gunners returned fire on both occasions.

Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water...

DAVID RUDGE

THE ongoing saga of fearsome-looking fish in Lake Kinneret has developed into an academic dispute - even though it has been determined that the fish are not piranhas.

According to Prof. Moshe Goffin, the fish netted in the lake - known as *colossoma* - could prove to be as dangerous as piranha if they manage to acclimatize and breed.

Goffin, formerly head of the Lake Kinneret Research Laboratory, spoke with Israel Radio. He

is currently in Oklahoma.

His fears, however, were described as "grossly exaggerated" by Dr. Danny Golani, curator of the fish collection at the Hebrew University. Golani, who categorically identified the toothy fish in the Kinneret as *colossoma*, said it was inconceivable that these fish would attack people.

He said the fish are vegetarian and any suggestion that they would attack people's arms and legs is purely a flight of science fiction.

In deep sorrow, we announce the death of our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

PAULINE ORENSTEIN נ"ח

Rabbi Dr. Walter and Nellie Orenstein (N.Y.)
Pinchas and Roberta Rosenfeld (Jerusalem)
Abe and Leslie Cytryn (N.Y.)
Steve and Dvora Liss (Kibbutz Shluchot)
Zvi Rosenfeld (N.Y.)
Steve and Suri Drucker (Jerusalem)
and her great-grandchildren:
Shani, Aviva, Shana, Eliran, Avigail,
Elisheva, Natan, Helena, Chanyanya, Ella

Shiva will take place at Rehov Tzuraya 2, Abu Tor, Jerusalem

With deepest sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved

Rabbi MEYER GREENBERG נ"ח

The coffin will arrive on El-Al flight 014, and the funeral will take place at 10 a.m. today, Monday, December 19, at Eretz Hachaim Cemetery, Beit Shemesh.

A bus will leave from Binyanei Ha'uma at 9:15 a.m.
Shiva at the Greenberg home, 31 Hatikva Street, Yemin Moshe, Jerusalem.

Evelyn Greenberg
Sadia and Lily Greenberg
Bryna and Paul Epstein
Dvora and Nathan Liebster
and all the grandchildren

Congregation Beit Yisrael Yemin Moshe deeply mourns the passing of

Dr. MEYER GREENBERG נ"ח

A beloved friend and former president

Tender to set up 60 gas stations

LIAT COLLINS

A TENDER for at least 60 gas stations will be issued by the end of 1995, according to Energy Ministry officials. The decision follows a meeting between Energy Ministry Moshe Shahal, Israel Lands Administration director Uzi Wechsler, and the chairman of the Knesset Economics Committee.

According to ministry estimates, another 150-200 stations are needed for Israel to reach the same ratio of stations per vehicles as western Europe. The ILA will meet a target of 250 gas stations within five to six years.

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Mubarak due here in March

BATSHEVA TSUR

EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak is expected to visit Israel in March, sources in Cairo said yesterday, as President Ezer Weizman prepared to arrive there today for his first state visit to an Arab country.

Weizman, accompanied by his wife, Reuma, is to be welcomed by the Mubaraks and

members of the Egyptian cabinet. A large contingent of journalists, including members of the Daily Newspaper

Editors' Committee, is accompanying the president.

Later this morning, Weizman is to lay wreaths at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier and on Anwar Sadat's grave. Then the two presidents will hold their first conference, aimed at moving the peace process forward.

Last night, Weizman met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who updated him on diplomatic developments and gave him a message to take to Cairo.

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Doctors at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem, extract a brain tumor last week via the patient's ear. (Avi Hayom)

Ear surgery removes tumor from man's brain

JERUSALEM surgeons removed a tumor from the auditory nerve and lower brain of a man by going in through his ear rather than by opening his skull. The extremely rare surgery, performed last week, was successful, and the patient is recovering nicely.

The man, in his 50s, gradually lost his hearing in one ear. Computerized scans found a tumor on behind. A new type of monitor —

reputedly the only one of its kind in the country — ensured that facial nerves were not damaged.

Elidan said another Hadassah doctor had done such an operation many years ago, but it had not been performed at the hospital since.

The surgeons removed the entire tumor. The patient's hearing,

the nerve from his inner ear that pushed one centimeter into his lower brain.

Prof. Yosef Elidan, head of the ear-nose-and-throat department at Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem, along with senior surgeon Prof. Felix Umansky, drilled into the ear and, using a sophisticated microscope,

opened the auditory canal from had been irreversibly damaged by the tumor itself, but the growth was prevented from spreading through the rest of his brain, according to Elidan.

If this minimalist surgery had not been performed here, the patient either would have had to go abroad or been subjected to a much more risky operation requiring the opening of his skull, Elidan said.

JUDY SIEGEL

New criteria ease burden of high-inflation mortgages

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat and Housing Minister Binjamin Ben-Eliezer have set looser compensation criteria for victims of the high mortgage rates from the early 1980s, the years of hyperinflation, the Treasury announced yesterday.

The new criteria are based on the policy established by former finance minister Yitzhak Moda'i and former housing minister Ariel Sharon, which allows for reducing mortgages whose rates are higher than 9 percent a month,

based on the price of the apartment and on the individual's income.

A joint Treasury-Housing Ministry committee will deal with severe cases of financial distress due to those mortgages, proposing arrangements to improve the financial situation of the affected individuals.

The victims should first contact their mortgage bank, which will

check whether they qualify to receive compensation. In particular, the bank will check whether the size of the apartment corresponds to the size of the family, the family's income, and the burden of the payments on their income.

Should the bank find that the family meets the government's criteria, its request will be forwarded to the joint committee, which

will issue a final decision. If the bank rejects a request, applicants will be able to appeal their request to the joint committee.

A joint committee currently deals with severe cases of financial distress, assisting about 500 families a year. The new criteria are aimed at making it easier to provide assistance on a case-by-case basis.

The new criteria will be published after Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair reviews them, the Treasury announced.

JOSE ROSENFELD

Meshulam, followers go wild in court

A HEARING in the trial of Uzi Meshulam and 11 followers was canceled yesterday after the group became disruptive in court, dancing and shouting insults at the judge.

Meshulam and his followers had arrived at the court earlier in a police van, but refused to leave the vehicle. After extended mediation the group agreed to enter Tel Aviv District Court.

As soon as Judge Amnon Strashnov entered the courtroom, the 12 asked for permission to leave. When Strashnov rejected the request, the group began dancing and shouting insults at him. The hearing in the neighboring courtroom had to be interrupted due to the noise of the Meshulam group.

"I have no respect for a [justice] system made up of liars,"

Meshulam said. Strashnov then left the courtroom and the 12 were brought back to jail.

The Meshulam trial began in November, but no cross-examination has taken place since Meshulam has fired every lawyer appointed for the group. He has insisted that a lawyer be appointed for each suspect — a request rejected by the court. (Itm)

Gov't hospital workers to strike

ADMINISTRATIVE and maintenance staff at all government hospitals decided yesterday to strike some time before January 1, when the National Health Insurance Law and other Health Ministry changes go into effect.

"We oppose the damaging revolution in the hospitals that the ministry wants to carry out," said union head Banya Levy at a meeting of worker representatives, who empowered her to declare a strike. No date has yet been set.

No comment was available last night from Health Ministry

JUDY SIEGEL

spokeswoman Yifat Ben-Hai.

Last week, public hospital doctors, senior department heads, and deans of the medical schools said they would "ignore" the new budget-restricting policies of the Health and Finance ministries and treat patients solely according to medical, rather than economic considerations.

Budget-cutting measures at the public hospitals, said Levy, will put many of them in a precarious

financial condition and force them to fire hundreds of workers. She charged the Health Ministry with "providing no answers" to staffers' questions on how the system will work after January 1. Levy also claimed that the ministry is establishing a new system for geriatric patients that "will force the closure" of a number of geriatric hospitals. In addition, all job openings in psychiatric hospitals have been "frozen," except for workers willing to be employed by a public corporation instead of as state workers.

Law change needed to ensure choice of delivery hospital

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry has asked the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee to change the national health insurance law to ensure that pregnant women will still have free choice of hospitals for their delivery.

According to the law, deliveries and post-partum treatment are part of the basket of health services supplied by the health funds. But some health funds might send members only to certain hospitals.

At present, women may register for birth at any public hospital; the National Insurance Institute pays the hospital a fixed rate. If, as expected, the committee changes the law before it takes effect on January 1, the NII will continue to pay the hospital directly, allowing each woman to decide where to give birth.

Robbers shoot security guard, get away with NIS 100,000

TWO robbers shot and beat a guard transporting daily proceeds from gas stations in Givat Shmuel yesterday and escaped with NIS 100,000.

Guard Aharon Meir, 54, suffered light injuries from a gunshot wound to his shoulder. He had been waiting alone in a car while his partner went into the accounting offices of Gold-Or, when the two robbers approached in another car.

The men came up from behind the guard, who was sitting in the back seat with the sack of cash. One assailant smashed through the back windshield with a metal

bar, hitting him in the head, and the second shot him.

They quickly snatched the sack and escaped in their vehicle. Witnesses said another three persons were waiting in the getaway car.

Police arrived at the scene and launched searches for the getaway car. A police helicopter later found the robbers' car abandoned in the Petah Tikva industrial zone. Another car had apparently been waiting for the robbers there, police said.

The wounded guard was brought to Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer, where he was listed in good condition. (Itm)

Public asked to report wife-beating

THE Israel Women's Network (IWN), responding to the Friday killing of Malki Dillard by her husband on Kibbutz Mashabeh Sadeh, asked the public to immediately report any case of wife-beating. The IWN also demanded more government funding for shelters for battered women. (Itm)

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION EMEK HEFER ECONOMIC Corp. Ltd.

Lease offered on 45 plots for construction of industrial buildings, Emek Hefer Industrial Zone - Invitation to Tender 324/94/Mem Resh

Bids are invited from those interested in signing a 3 year development agreement, after which the party concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for land, the details of which are:

Details of which are:		Approx. Area, sq.m.	Construction Area sq.m.	Minimum Price, NIS	Development Costs, NIS*	Deposit NIS
Part of Parcel	Plot					
69	2	1,530	1,224	205,101	211,155	21,000
69	4	1,236	1,010	169,308	174,306	17,000
69	5	1,249	999	167,431	172,374	17,000
10, 65	13	1,490	1,192	199,738	205,834	21,000
8, 9, 65	14	1,080	848	142,095	146,290	15,000
15, 69	112	2,978	2,382	352,254	410,993	35,000
16, 69	113	2,978	2,382	352,254	410,993	35,000
16, 69	114	2,978	2,382	352,254	410,993	35,000
17						
17, 69	115	2,978	2,382	352,254	410,993	35,000
69	116	2,542	2,034	300,581	360,821	30,000
18	118	1,717	1,374	230,168	236,963	25,000
18, 64	119	1,546	1,237	207,245	213,383	21,000
62						
18, 45	120	1,546	1,237	207,245	213,383	21,000
56, 66	122	2,248	1,796	285,906	310,246	27,000
18						
69	125*	4,043	3,234	478,229	557,974	48,000
69	126	2,875	2,300	340,071	396,778	35,000
69	127	2,880	2,288	338,297	394,708	35,000
69	128	2,846	2,277	336,640	392,776	35,000
69	129	2,957	2,368	349,771	408,095	35,000
69	130	2,965	2,368	354,265	413,339	35,000
69	131	3,035	2,428	358,998	418,880	42,000
69	132	2,333	1,866	275,860	321,977	30,000
69	133	2,495	1,996	295,122	344,334	30,000
69	134	2,544	2,035	300,519	351,097	30,000
69	135	2,593	2,074	306,715	357,859	30,000
69	136	2,457	1,966	290,627	339,090	30,000
3	148	3,475	2,780	411,043	478,584	40,000
69	205	2,173	1,738	257,035	299,895	25,000
69	210	2,286	1,829	270,401	315,490	25,000
3	211	2,150	1,720	254,313	298,721	26,000
69	213	2,692	2,122	313,693	368,002	32,000
69	215	2,750	2,200	325,285	379,527	32,000
69	216	2,841	2,113	312,392	364,484	32,000
30, 60	226	1,232	986	165,152	170,026	17,000
30, 60	227	2,212	1,770	261,647	305,278	27,000
29						
27, 60	229	2,422	2,422	286,488	334,280	29,000
58, 60	230	3,968	2,693	398,149	464,541	40,000
12-14	231	3,364	2,691	397,913	464,285	40,000
55, 58	232	3,325	2,680	393,300	458,883	40,000
14, 55						
13, 14	233	2,054	1,643	242,985	283,472	25,000
14, 69	234	2,278	1,821	269,218	314,110	27,000
13, 69						
55, 68	235	2,583	2,066	305,532	356,479	31,000
13						
55, 69	236	2,654	2,123	313,930	366,278	32,000
12						
69	238	2,882	2,306	340,899	397,744	35,000
69	239	2,887	2,310	341,490	398,434	35,000

* Urban Building Plans 3/81/Aylin Hat, 7/81/Aylin Hat show that an industrial building may be erected on each plot, with a height of up to 3 floors, but not exceeding 18 m. The ground floor may have an area of 40%. The maximum area can be up to 80%. In addition, a gallery may be built on each floor, with an area of 5% of the area of the floor.

** Bids should be for the land only. The successful bidder will also pay the above development costs to Emek Hefer Economic Corp. Ltd. These development costs are linked to the index of building inputs for October 1994. He will also pay 7.5% of the development costs to Emek Hefer Development Corp. Ltd., to cover the cost of surveying for registration purposes. These payments do not cover the fee for connection to the water main, or fees and levies due to the regional council, in accordance with the bylaws.

† Not including VAT.
NOTES: 1. Bids may be submitted for one or more plots.
2. The Israel Lands Administration reserves the right to accept any bid or to reject all bids, including the highest.

The tender booklet will be available from December 27, 1994, on submission of a receipt from the Postal Bank for NIS300 (cash only, including VAT), for a payment into Israel Lands Administration account 0-24180-0, per booklet. The booklets will be available at the Israel Lands Administration, Central Region, 88 Derech Petah Tikva, Tel Aviv, ☎ 03-5638383, during regular working hours. A bank check or bank guarantee for the deposit amount noted above should be attached to each bid. Last date for submitting bids: February 22, 1995 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

ISRAEL LANDS ADM. ZICHRON YA'ACOV LOCAL COUNCIL INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS Co. Ltd.

Build Your Home Scheme, Givat Eden, Zichron Ya'acov (101 housing units)

The Israel Lands Administration, in conjunction with the Industrial Buildings Co. Ltd. and Zichron Ya'acov Local Council, offers 59 plots for the construction of 59 single-family houses, and 21 plots for the construction of 42 semi-detached houses.

Ten plots are intended for the disabled who do not own a plot or have not been allocated a plot anywhere in Israel. The following criteria apply: IDP disabled with 50% permanent disability, attested by documentation, issued by the Rehabilitation Branch of the Min. of Defense, with validity of one year. A disabled person who was not disabled during service in the IDF, and who is 75% permanently disabled in the lower limbs; this disability must be attested by currently valid documentation, issued by the National Insurance or by the Ministry of Health.

First priority in the draw will be given to IDP disabled, with 100% or more disability. Registration will take place at Industrial Buildings Co. Ltd., 4 Kaufman, 4th floor (Sharbat Building) Tel Aviv, Tel. 03-5190886, Sunday to Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., and at the Matras (Payis Community Center) Derech Aharon, Zichron Ya'acov, Tel. 06-396671, Sunday to Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Registration will open at 9 a.m. on Monday, December 26, 1994 and close at 12 noon on Wednesday, January 18, 1995.

When registering, you will be required to deposit a bank check/guarantee for NIS3,000, made out to the Israel Lands Administration, which will serve as an advance on the cost of the land. Additional particulars and a detailed prospectus can be obtained free of charge from December 25, 1994, at the Matras, and at Industrial Buildings, at the above addresses.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION - Tel Aviv Region

Lease offered on Plot 1/Alef for construction of a hotel of grade B, C or D, in Rehov Ben-Gurion, Bat Yam - Invitation to Tender 320/94/Tev Alef

Bids are invited from those interested in signing a 39 month development agreement, after which those concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for land, the details of which are as given below.

Participation in the tender is restricted to those who obtain a recommendation from the Min. of Tourism.

(The recommendation must refer specifically to the size of the plot, and its location.)

Block Part of Plot Approx. Area, sq.m. Area for Registration, sq.m. Minimum Price, NIS Deposit NIS

7120 91 1/Alef 11,028 See below 25,060,000 2,500,000

7138 349

* In accordance with Urban Building Plan Alef/79 and Decision 5/14 of the local council, of July 31, 1994, the permissible construction on the plot is:

Main Area: 35% on the ground floor

15-20% on the upper floor

Total main building - 210%

Services Area: Total services area in the building will not exceed 50% of the permitted main construction area.

** Bids should be for the land, excluding the development. The development costs will be paid directly to Holon Municipality, in accordance with the bylaws.

NOTES: 1. The Israel Lands Administration reserves the right to accept any bid or to reject all bids, including the highest.

2. Despite what is stated in the urban building plan, submissions to the Min. of Tourism should relate to construction of a hotel of grade B, C or D, or a motel.

† Not including VAT.

The tender booklet will be available from December 25, 1994, against payment of NIS100 cash (including VAT) at the Israel Lands Administration, Tel Aviv Region, 116 Derech Petah Tikva (Beit Katla), Tel Aviv, ☎ 03-5638111, during regular working hours.

A bank check or guarantee for the deposit amount stated above should be attached to bids. Last date for submitting an application for a recommendation from the Min. of Tourism: February 19, 1995. Last date for submitting bids: March 22, 1995 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS Co. Ltd.

Lease offered on Plot 2034 for construction of an industrial building, Industrial Zone, Yavne - Invitation to Tender 322/94/Mem Resh

Bids are invited from those interested in signing a 3 year development agreement, after which the party concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for a plot, the details of which are:

Block Part of Plot Approx. Area, sq.m. Construction Area, sq.m. Minimum Price, NIS Development Costs, NIS* Deposit NIS

4921 10 2034 13,450 16,140 3,896,886 1,919,525 400,000

* Urban Building Plan 222/Yod Mem shows that the plot is zoned as industrial. A three-story building may be erected, with a building percentage of 40 per floor, total 120%.

** In addition to the amount paid for the land, the successful bidder will pay Industrial Buildings Ltd. the above development costs, which are linked to building index for October 1994.

† Not including VAT.

The Israel Lands Administration reserves the right to accept any bid or to reject all bids, including the highest.

The tender booklet will be available from December 26, 1994, on submission of a receipt from the Postal Bank for NIS100 (cash only, including VAT), for a payment into Israel Lands Administration account 0-24180-0, per booklet. The booklets will be available at the Israel Lands Administration, Central Region, 88 Derech Petah Tikva, Tel Aviv, ☎ 03-5638383, during regular working hours.

A bank check or bank guarantee for the deposit amount noted above should be attached to bids. Last date for submitting bids: February 22, 1995 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

MIN. OF CONSTRUCTION AND HOUSING ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION

Lease offered on Plots 137 & 140 for construction of 30 housing units in high-rise buildings, Migdal Tzafon, Ashdod - Invitation to Tender 325/94/Yod Mem

Bids are invited from those interested in signing 22 month development agreements, after which the party concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for land, the details of which are given below.

Block Part of Plot Approx. Area, sq.m. Main Construction Area, sq.m. Construction Area for Services, sq.m. Max. No. of Housing Units Development Costs, NIS* Deposit NIS

1201 19, 40 137 3,479 3,000 430 30 950,570 200,000

11, 17 140

* Urban Building Plan 105/Beit Mem4 shows that 30 housing units may be built on the main area, with a maximum area for registration of 3,000 sq.m., plus a maximum area of 430 sq.m. for services; total maximum area for registration 3,430 sq.m. - all in accordance with the documents of the above-mentioned plan.

** In addition to the amount paid for the land, the successful bidder will also pay directly to the Ministry the general development costs (which are linked to the index of building inputs for October 1994) for development already carried out, and for development to be done.

The following are eligible to bid:

1. A company or person, registered in the Contractors Register under Building, Main Branch (100), in accordance with the Law for the Registering of Contractors for Civil Engineering Construction Work 1982.

2. A contractor whose "calculated average number of housing units" is at least 50, and who is registered in the Contractors Register in the 100 Branch, Section 9 Gimmel, or an entrepreneur whose "calculated average number of housing units" is at least 50.

The "calculated average number of housing units" will be calculated by reference to the total number of housing units and other construction areas, the building of which was completed after June 1, 1991.

3. A contractor will provide confirmation of its construction work, completed after June 1, 1991, by providing, inter alia:

- A Form 4, registered on the bidder's name.

- A building agreement, contracted between the bidder and another party, demonstrating that the building work was carried out by

One of pilots downed over N. Korea killed

THE pilot of a US helicopter that strayed into North Korean airspace was killed in the downing of his aircraft, the White House said yesterday. The second pilot was alive and reportedly uninjured.

"This tragic loss of life was unnecessary," President Clinton said in a statement issued by the White House.

The statement said Chief Warrant Officer David Hilemon of Clarksville, Tenn., "was killed in the downing of the helicopter." The second pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Hall of Brooksville, Fla., "is alive and reportedly uninjured," the statement said.

The United States was informed by the North Koreans through Rep. Bill Richardson, who went to Pyongyang on an unrelated mission involving US-North Korean relations.

Through Richardson, Clinton demanded "prompt access" to Hall.

"Our primary concern now is the welfare of Chief Warrant Officer Hall and his return, along with the body of Chief Warrant Officer Hilemon," Clinton said.

RON FOURNIER
WASHINGTON

In the statement and in private, Clinton and his aides carefully chose their words to make sure not to antagonize the North Koreans while the second airman remained in custody.

The three-paragraph statement, issued shortly after Clinton left the White House for a round of golf, said Richardson would remain in North Korea "for now, and will remain in constant contact with North Korean officials on our behalf."

It said Richardson also was in contact with US Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of both of these dedicated aviators," Clinton said.

Donna Hall, wife of the surviving aviator, wept when contacted at home by The Associated Press.

"I'm elated that my husband is safe, but my heart goes out to the family of the other man," Mrs. Hall said, as she cried what she described as "tears of joy."

US military delegates met with North Korean officials yesterday at the border village of Panmunjom, in their first official talks since the unarmed OH-58C helicopter crossed into North Korea on Saturday.

South Korean military sources said ground troops saw the helicopter fly into North Korean territory, but reported no signs of an attack or pursuit, the newspaper Dong-A Ilbo reported.

The United States said the helicopter was on a routine training mission. North Korean officials accused the United States and South Korea of staging hostile air exercises.

Jim Coles, a US military spokesman in Seoul, called those accusations "spurious untruths."

Further meetings were expected, command officials said yesterday in Seoul, South Korea.

Also yesterday, Richardson met with the North Korean foreign minister and the chairman of North Korea's legislature, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said.

Richardson had gone to North Korea to discuss the treaty calling for North Korea to dismantle its nuclear program. (AP)



Former president Jimmy Carter arrives at Sarajevo Airport yesterday on a private mission to try to end the war in Bosnia. (AP)

Carter arrives in Sarajevo for new peace bid

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Former US President Jimmy Carter arrived in the Bosnian capital yesterday to try what others have failed to do: end 32 months of war in Bosnia.

Carter launched his peace mission as government troops withdrew from a key north-west Bosnian town, Velika Kladusa, that had been under attack for weeks by Serbs and renegade Moslems.

Bosnian army officials in Sarajevo said defenders had managed to pull out of the surrounded town, and that there were no civilians loyal to the government left there.

Before flying to Sarajevo, Carter stopped briefly in Frankfurt and the Croatian capital Zagreb, where he met with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic.

Carter landed at Sarajevo's airport at 4:23 p.m., just as darkness was descending, and

emerged from his plane wearing a flak jacket.

Yesterday morning, four rocket-propelled grenades hit the center of Sarajevo. Two hit close to a French UN anti-airing team, slightly wounding a peacekeeper and a civilian. Two more hit a nearby barracks of Ukrainian peacekeepers.

Security was tight, with police posted every 100 meters along the route in to the city from the airport.

After meeting Silajdzic, Carter told reporters that he would meet Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic in Sarajevo and "observe very carefully" whether Bosnian Serbs were making good on promises to ease tensions.

He was likely today to go on to Pale, the Bosnian Serb headquarters outside Sarajevo.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic invited Carter to help restart peace talks. Carter successfully broke diplomatic stalemates this year in Haiti and North Korea.

But a wide spectrum of officials expressed concern that Karadzic would try to use Carter's visit to undermine efforts to get the Serbs to accept an international peace plan.

The Serbs have rejected the plan, which would force them to pare their holdings of Bosnian territory to 49 percent from the 70 percent it now holds. The Bosnian government has accepted the plan.

Bosnian leaders, Serbia's leader Slobodan Milosevic, and Russia, a traditional Serbian ally, have expressed concern over the visit.

A statement from the Carter Center in Atlanta said Carter decided to make the trip after "extensive discussions" with the White House and UN officials.

"My purpose in traveling to the region is to seek ways to contribute to the cessation of hostilities and to encourage the acceptance of the contact group's plan as the basis for negotiations," he said.

New book suggests Ike knew about Ardennes offensive

MEIR RONNEN

AS American survivors of the Battle of the Bulge met in Bastogne this weekend to mark the 50th anniversary of their heroic stand there, a new book by historian Charles Whiting suggests that the green, thinly spread and unsupported GI's in the Ardennes were used as bait to encourage Hitler to strike out of Germany into an Allied trap.

Over 80,000 Americans were killed, wounded or captured in the desperate Nazi drive of December 1944 intended to reach the River Meuse and Antwerp, cutting the Allied forces in two. Whiting's *The Last Assault* demonstrates that General Eisenhower knew an assault was coming, held all his armor in reserve and did nothing to strengthen the American line in the Ardennes.

Hitler had confided his plans to the Japanese Ambassador in Berlin, Hiroshi Oshima, a Nazi sympathizer later convicted of war crimes. Oshima promptly cabled his superiors in Tokyo. Allied cryptographers were reading both German and Japanese codes, and the Ultra team also made its intelligence known to Ike.

Whiting shows that American generals like Omar Bradley and George Patton expressed to Eisenhower the hope that the Germans would expose themselves in a counter-attack, and that pinching off a German drive was their best chance of ending the war early in 1945.

The Germans, for their part, hoped that a major military setback to the Allies would enable them to secure better peace terms. Some clung to the hope that the Allies would join them in stemming the Russian tide.

Everyone's plans went awry. The German offensive, spearheaded by Nazis in American uniforms, comprising 600,000 men and newly equipped SS forces with Panther tanks, was far more devastating than Ike expected. Poor weather conditions prevented the advance of American rescue forces and the use of aircraft. Many near-frozen American units in the Ardennes bulge were decimated.

Only the heroic American stands at Bastogne in the south and St. Frith in the north of the bulge upset the Nazi timetable. Hitler's offensive soon ran out of steam. But the Americans had paid a dreadful price. Whiting writes that the victorious American generals organized a cover-up of events leading to the battle and that relevant documents are still classified.

Microsoft: No, we're not buying the Catholic Church

NEW YORK (AP) — To some cyber-prankster, it was a match made in heaven: A fake story on the Internet announced that Microsoft, the world's largest maker of personal computer software, was to acquire the Roman Catholic Church.

The unknown prankster used a fake dispatch from The Associated Press, the world's largest news-gathering organization, and circulated it on the Internet global network of computers.

"If the deal goes through," the story intoned under a Vatican City dateline, "it will be the first time a computer software company has acquired a major world religion."

Under the terms of the supposed deal, Microsoft would get exclusive electronic rights to the Bible. Pope John Paul II would become the senior vice president of the combined company's new Religious Software Division, and two Microsoft senior vice presidents would be invested in the College of Cardinals.

Microsoft, the world's largest maker of personal computer software, disavowed the hoax on Friday after receiving calls from people who thought it might be true.

"Given the seriousness of the issue, it's not something we wanted to be associated with," said Christine Santucci, a spokeswoman for the Redmond, Washington-based company.

While the tone of the story is serious, the claims are anything but.

The fake story included a promise from Gates that he would use a Microsoft computer network to "make the sacraments available on-line for the first time."

Officials at Microsoft and AP headquarters in New York said they didn't know where the fake story originated.

Bosnia pushes Germany toward bigger military role

BONN (Reuters) — Slowly and unobtrusively, Germany is inching closer and closer to a role it never wanted to assume again, that of a military power.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, advancing step by step along a path he knows is not popular, announced yesterday that Bonn would send fighter jets to protect United Nations peacekeepers if they have to withdraw from Bosnia.

"If the UN and NATO decide to withdraw the soldiers from Bosnia, then it is our duty to help our friends with the pull-out," Kohl told the newspaper *Bild*.

"This would involve air support," he added.

Rudolf Scharping, head of the traditionally anti-war opposition Social Democrats (SPD), indicated on Saturday his party would back a German military role if that was the only way to ensure humanitarian aid flights could continue.

Kohl has wanted Germany to join peacekeeping missions ever since his nation reunited in 1990, but the taboo about returning to battlefields after 50 years of peace and prosperity seemed almost too strong to break.

If the Bonn parliament ap-

proves the mission, which now seems increasingly likely, German forces could soon be joining UN peacekeepers in other flash-points around the world.

Scared by two world wars and four decades at the Cold War's front line, many Germans have tried hard to ignore, deny, reject or argue away the fact their reunited nation is too big and powerful to stand aside during a crisis like Bosnia.

But the growing threat to NATO forces in Bosnia has blown away all its diplomatic fig leaves and confronted Bonn with a stark choice — line up with your

allies or risk humiliation as an unreliable partner.

"Our room for maneuver on this issue is extremely tight," observed Karl Lamers, foreign policy spokesman for Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU).

"Militarily and politically, we are part of the West and of NATO. We cannot paralyze [NATO] by saying 'we can't' when everybody else says 'you must.'"

Recent polls show about two-thirds of those interviewed oppose sending German fighter jets to Bosnia.

Massive power cuts hit Algeria; food store blasted

TUNIS (Reuters) — Massive power cuts, believed caused by sabotage, have blacked out parts of the Algerian capital where a central food store was blown up and burnt in an attack by 40 armed men, media and diplomatic sources said yesterday.

Algerian state radio quoted the Algerian electricity company as saying power cuts in Algiers and the neighboring region of Blida that started last Wednesday night would last a further three to four days.

Blida town, which is both the headquarters of the country's main military region covering the capital and renowned as a Moslem fundamentalist area, is 50 ki-

lometers south of Algiers.

Cuts were being rotated between areas and life remained normal, the radio said.

It did not explain what it described as a "dangerous incident," but two Algerian newspapers said Moslem guerrillas had blown up power pylons supplying the capital.

"An armed group has hit a high tension power line feeding Algiers," the daily *Tribune* said, quoting unnamed sources.

The independent *El Watan*, generally well-informed on security issues, said five power pylons were blown up near Zemmoura town, some 50 kilometers west of Algiers.

Bulgaria elects new parliament; fears of stalemate linger

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — For the first time since they were ousted five years ago, former Communists hoped to retake power as Bulgarians went to the polls yesterday to elect a new parliament.

Socialist leader Zhan Videnov, buoyed by opinion polls favoring his party of former Communists, predicted a resounding victory.

The Socialist Party has garnered about 30 percent support in earlier polls, while the anti-Communist Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) had about 20 percent.

A party representing ethnic Turks has been a distant third. Across Central and Eastern Europe, one-time Communists are on the rise. In Hungary, they

swept May elections. In Slovakia, a new party espousing orthodox communist views is part of a new governing coalition.

Nationwide voter turnout was reported to be about 50 percent by 4 p.m., three hours before polls were to close. Bulgaria has about 6.3 million eligible voters.

In the capital of Sofia, a main stronghold of Filip Dimitrov's UDF, turnout was only about 40 percent. He has already ruled out a coalition with the Socialists.

After casting his ballot, Videnov, a 35-year-old economic expert, said he expected "a success of the left-wing forces and a crushing defeat of those whose idea of transition has proved a fiasco."

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HSO plays its way into the big league

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

THE Haifa Symphony Orchestra's relationship to its home audience is like that of a soccer team to its fans, says conductor Stanley Sperber.

"Every time we play [in Haifa], it feels like we are on home turf. It is as if we were Maccabi Haifa and they are all proud of us."

It wasn't always so. In 1972, when the then-30-year-old conductor from Brooklyn first led the orchestra, it was playing to half-empty halls.

Today, it plays to full houses, a development for which Sperber can take much of the credit.

This season marks his 10th anniversary as the music director of the HSO, as well as the 45th anniversary of the orchestra, to be marked Wednesday night at the Haifa Auditorium.

This time, though, Sperber will

be seated with the "fans." On the podium will be Sergiu Comissiona, the HSO's first music director back in the early 1960s.

When Sperber joined the HSO "it was a totally different animal. We had 60 musicians in the orchestra, now we have 75. We barely played each program twice and now we play each program five times. We had 1,500 subscribers; now we have 8,000."

It is all thanks to the gradual and at times painful work of Sperber and Ben-Ami Einav, the HSO general manager, who also joined the orchestra a decade ago.

Sperber recalls that in 1984 "the orchestra was a depressed being." The salaries were the lowest among all Israeli orchestras, so the first thing Sperber and Einav did was to bring pay scales up to par with the others. "We approached the Ministry

of Culture and Education and the Haifa Municipality, and told them they had to decide if they want the orchestra dead or alive," Sperber says.

Eventually the funding from these bodies was increased, as were the salaries.

"Suddenly conducting on payday wasn't so depressing. Not that the current situation is good, mind you. But at least it's much better than it was."

The changes meant that, slowly but surely, the HSO gained respectability within its own community.

"Gradually, we became a professional symphony orchestra," Sperber recalls. "There were no miracles done here. It was a slow and painstaking process, but it had to be done."

"The orchestra wasn't of a caliber that [made] the local people feel like coming. So we added

some innovations, like pre-concert lectures, and I also addressed the audience from the podium whenever we performed contemporary music to show them that it's not that painful."

Sperber has his list of priorities.

"We need a hall of our own where the offices will be located and where we will rehearse and play our concerts. At the moment the hall we play in is owned by the City of Haifa, and its acoustics are just terrible and there is nothing we can do about it."

Moreover, it lacks substitutes. An orchestra that plays over 100 concerts a season "must have triple winds, a fifth horn player or a third trumpet," for example. "Our players are literally falling off their feet."

The HSO also needs both national and international expo-

sure. "Touring with the orchestra is not like taking the kids on a picnic. It is a shot in the arm for the orchestra, which keeps [the musicians] going for six months."

"We must travel abroad at least once every other year, but now we can do that only if the tours completely cover their costs. And we also must play in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem."

Einav hopes the orchestra will "grow to 85 to 90 musicians and be able to do multimedia-type performances. In the age of the CD and the video, this is the only way classical music will be able to survive."

With the HSO budget of NIS 8 million - half of that falling on the orchestra's shoulders - Einav has to be careful where he puts his money.

He acknowledges that the increasing audiences the orchestra



Conductor Stanley Sperber says that the orchestra still has a long way to go.

has enjoyed for many seasons now is both rewarding and alarming.

"Occasionally you think what will happen if the audience figures go down. And it is frightening."

Dytches treat

HELEN KAYE

THE year was 1973. Shmuel Calderon was playing a soldier called Jonathan in A.B. Yehoshua's *Final Treatments* when, a week after the opening, the Yom Kippur War broke out and the young actor was drafted.

On the other side of the world, Ruth Dytches - after a promising start on the off-Broadway stage - was settling into a long run playing a journalist in the American TV soap opera *All My Children*.

Twenty-one years later, Calderon and Dytches have joined forces on Calderon's *Touch Wood*, based on his war experiences.

The two cowrote the final script and Dytches is directing the one-man play (Tzavta 2, Tel Aviv, December 23 and 30 at 2:30 p.m.).

"I recorded all the stories he told," says Dytches in the comfortable spaciousness of the Tel Aviv home that doubles as her studio. "About four to five hours' worth. The parts that were hard for him to tell, we kept in."

Calderon's unit ended up in the Sinai where he met and was befriended by a real Jonathan who was blinded by a mortar fragment during the last days of the war. *Touch Wood* closes the circle on memories that he'd repressed.

Dytches didn't finally settle here until 1985, but the process began with the boat trip which brought her and her mother here a week before the 1967 war. That one was a journey her mother had always dreamed of making and it had been made possible "because Mother took an extra job to help me while I was studying drama at the American Academy of Dramatic Art."

Her parents, who died several years ago, had survived the war in Vilna. Dytches and her twin brother Harry were born in Munich, but the family moved to the US in 1948 where her father, Arnold, established a chicken farm in Vineland, New Jersey.

Dytches moved to New York when she was 17 (she'd rather not disclose the year) to study at AADA and become an actress.

In 1969 she got an Obie award for her portrayal of a prostitute. "I think I was one of the first to kiss a black man on stage," she says. During the '70s she moved to TV where she worked on soaps, first as an actress and then as a director in *All My Children*.

"Dytches is a natural for the soaps. She's a beautiful woman with the kind of cheekbones cameras adore, green eyes and a cloud of curly auburn hair that makes her look taller than her 1.62 m. She has a wide, delighted smile."

There are some photos on her wall of the time she modeled for *Vogue* magazine, "but I had curls, a big mouth and breasts in the Twiggy era, so I didn't model very long. Besides, it was boring."

Since her immigration Dytches has taught acting and directing for the camera, a local continuation of the work she did in New York when she decided to give up acting.

She also teaches the same subjects at Tel Aviv University and various other art schools around the Tel Aviv area.

Touch Wood is the second stage play she's directed. The first was also a solo piece called *Abadie*. She worked the same way on both pieces, filming the rehearsals, "which gave us instant reference material."

Further stage plays are possible - "it's something I think I can do," she says.

Starring History

FILM REVIEW

ADINA HOFFMAN

LIFETIMES

★★★★

Directed by Zhang Yimou. Screenplay by Yu Hua and Lu Wei, from the novel by Yu Hua. Hebrew title: *Shou Haim*. 130 minutes. Mandarin dialogue. English and Hebrew subtitles. Not recommended for children.

Fugui Ge You
Jiazhen Gong Li

THE paper shadow puppets that sing and declaim at pointed intervals throughout Zhang Yimou's *Lifetimes* look as delicate as butterfly wings, tacked at the wrists and ankles to the thin wooden dowels that guide them.

The seeming fragility of these puppets is deceptive, though, since they and the simple Chinese family they're so clearly meant to represent in this lush historical epic prove surprisingly resilient when prodded.

The extravagant symbolism that Zhang employs in his new film, the winner of this year's Grand Jury Prize at Cannes, is a more expansive version of the loaded imagery he explored in *Raise the Red Lantern* and *Ju Dou* - both opulent, tightly focused meditations on rigid ritual and violent longing.

While those films were set in the feudal '20s and '30s, history per se was hardly their concern. Instead, the past served as a pretty backdrop, a production designer's excuse to fashion numerous vibrant silk jackets, hand-carved bedposts, and narrow stone alleys whose simplest gateways were decked with flaring pagodas and heavy dragon statuary.

Watching those movies, one also had to wonder if the long-ago remove of Zhang's settings wasn't a kind of safe haven, a graceful means of sidestepping China's current political quagmire.

But the past is no shield or excuse in *Lifetimes*. Zhang's most ambitious film to date, it's the star.

History with a capital H - as in wars, revolutions and counter-revolutions - propels the players, an ordinary couple, through their difficult lives. And History makes these small people heroes. (This is the sort of film that tempts even cynical critics to toy with worn-out declarations about the "triumph of hope" and the "enduring nature of the human spirit.")

If David O. Selznick were alive and Chinese, he might make a movie like this one.

The action begins in the 1940s, as Fugui (Ge You), a compulsive gambler, bets his family's fortune - and loses. Disgusted by Fugui's seemingly incurable addiction to the sound of rattling dice, his pregnant wife, Jiazhen (Gong Li), announces she's leaving with their young daughter.

Eventually she returns, infant son in tow, just in time for civil war to break out and for Fugui to join the Nationalist forces, then the Communists.

When he returns home, he discovers that his impoverished wife has been forced to take a job delivering water in the dark early mornings. Their daughter has been ill since he left and is now a deaf mute....

By the time Jiazhen sighs and speaks the fateful words, "All I ask is a quiet life together," we know well enough to chuckle ruefully.

Quiet is the last thing the family has in store, with the upheavals of the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution still down the pipeline, not to mention the several operas' worth of personal tragedies that await them - betrayal and sickness and fatal accidents. The bad things that happen to these good people are mostly beyond their control.

Each grueling new decade is introduced by a blackened screen and the words "The '40s" or "The '50s," accompanied by a brief explanation of each period's major historical developments.

At first this transitional device seems merely a Greatest Hits approach to Mao's revolution, a filmic short cut between the most important textbook dates in modern Chinese history.

But gradually, forcefully, the same technique reveals the particular nature of Fugui and Jiazhen's heroism: their survival from one decade to the next.

This modest staying power has as much to do with the joints between scenes as it does the characters' courageous on-screen actions. Zhang seems to be saying that they - and presumably millions of other Chinese like them - are heroes simply because they are still alive and trying.

It's both exciting and perplexing for a Western viewer to encounter the film's peculiar psychological shallows and depths.



Set against Mao's revolution, Ge You plays a compulsive gambler and Gong Li his wife with a mind of her own.

its stylized shifts between pathos and humor, massive generality and the shockingly intimate.

We watch the wily clown Fugui and the radiant Jiazhen, and we feel for them in their tragedies and occasional moments of pleasure - but this is often feeling tendered at a cautious remove, through a cultural scrim of sorts.

The inner life, that old Western bogey, is either eclipsed or fully externalized here, converted by the director into color, gesture and shadow.

In some ways, it's no surprise at all that this cultural context has given birth to the most important film movement of the last several years: that transformation of emotion to light is the very essence of cinema.

Music, he adds, has to be beautiful, and his definition includes the whole range "contemporary music" which has come out of the ivory tower. It seeks to reflect the reality of our personal experiences. What's happened in the world has forced artists to shed light on it.

"Artists help people look at the dark side of their lives, and for me, that transforming revelation of inner truth is beautiful. As

A magical wand

HELEN KAYE

SWENSEN will be conducting Swensen in a piece by Swensen this week with the Israel Chamber Orchestra.

The first of the three is American conductor Joseph Swensen. The second is cellist Elizabeth Anderson - Mrs. Swensen off-stage. And the third is Joseph again, this time as composer of *Lauf*, for cello and orchestra.

Lauf is a mystical Sufi conception whose meaning the 34-year-old conductor/composer explains as "subtle beauty."

Mystical overtones also color Swensen's description of his music and affection for Israel, which he has visited several times.

He calls this country "one of the *shakras* [a yoga term meaning energy centers] of the world from which the magic springs. Israeli culture is very open, very expressive and that's reflected in its music."

Music and mysticism are intertwined for Swensen, stemming from his interest in "anything poetic which means anything beyond the limitations of language. My active interest [in mysticism] started when [his son] David was born five years ago."

Part of his wife's family is Jewish - in fact she has relatives here - and David, says his father, "will get the opportunity to learn about his Jewish heritage."

Young David comes in at that moment and, leaning confidently against his father's knee, asks him, "Do you want a kiss or a key?" Swensen's attention shifts and focuses completely on his son. "I'll take a kiss," he says, and does, and also takes the proffered hotel-room key.

His attention to music is as total. "I have a purpose," he says, "it's to reflect the essence of the music [in] an organic flow from the composer through me to the musicians, and from them to the audience. That way we connect at the deepest level. It's difficult to speak from the deepest part of ourselves to the deepest part of the other. Music does it naturally with nothing in the way."

Music, he adds, has to be beautiful, and his definition includes the whole range "contemporary music" which has come out of the ivory tower. It seeks to reflect the reality of our personal experiences. What's happened in the world has forced artists to shed light on it.

"Artists help people look at the dark side of their lives, and for me, that transforming revelation of inner truth is beautiful. As

a composer I feel that I'm reconnecting with a kind of unadorned truth that's rarer to find in Western music than in that of so-called primitive peoples."

Swensen's first performed composition was *Seven Last Words*, which premiered 2½ years ago. He's been composing since he was 11, "but the music stayed in the drawer or went into the garbage. Composing for me is like writing my journal, so rehearsing and performing is like reading my diary aloud. But I do it because it's difficult, because I write to know myself."

A native New Yorker, Swensen comes from a multicultural background. His paternal grandfather immigrated from Norway and his mother, whose eyes he inherited, is a Hawaiian Japanese. Both of his parents are professional musicians, and Swensen started studying piano with his mother when he was two.

"I loved sports, people and socializing," he recalls. "I was a happy, uncomplicated child. Yes, I think I resented my gift a bit. It wasn't easy to turn down invitations to parties or playing ball to practice."

Juliard took Swensen when he was seven, and although he'd been interested in conducting since the age of nine, he studied the violin and made his professional debut as a solo violinist.

"I'd asked my father what it takes to be a conductor. He'd said, 'Everything, but the first task is to learn one instrument as well as you can. I didn't start studying scores until I was 18.'"

As a solo violinist Swensen appeared with many of the world's major orchestras, but "I saw it as an apprenticeship for conducting. I'm a social animal and solo playing is a very solitary life."

His made his conducting debut in 1987, and since then "I've been having a fantastic time. I travel about 200 days in the year. We live in North Carolina because Elizabeth is professor of cello at the University of North Carolina, but we're thinking of moving to Europe because so much of my work is there."

"I'd like to do nothing but tend my garden and write music, but not yet. I'm having too much fun."

Rodrigo and Haydn are also on the ICO program tonight at the Tel Aviv Museum and tomorrow at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center.

Sweet music, sweet tooth: He indulges the senses

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

ton, Canada, and Toledo, Ohio.

"Both orchestras demanded residency and we wanted to live in the US." So he chose Toledo, where he was music director for nine years, conducting an amazing 250 concerts a year.

He still lives in Toledo, where he was appointed conductor laureate of the orchestra, and now keeps an eye on his burgeoning cookie business. After five years, his grandmother Dina's almond cookies are selling all over the US, in Korea, Japan and England.

Zaliouk has nothing but praise for the Ra'anana Symphonette, with which he is working for the first time.

He leads the Symphonette in a program featuring Leonard Bernstein's *On the Town* suite, Beethoven's third "Leonore" Overture and Mozart's 41st symphony.

The soloist is Konstantin Sokolov, who will play the Saint-Saens cello concerto. Concerts in Ra'anana are tonight, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

SOME cookies tell fortunes, others make them.

When Yuval Zaliouk, 55, isn't pursuing his conducting career, he's tending to Almondina, an American company that prepares and markets cookies based on his grandmother's secret recipe.

If negotiations are successful, consumers soon will be able to buy his cookies here.

Meanwhile, local audiences will have a chance to evaluate his musical skills when he leads the Ra'anana Symphonette in a series of subscription concerts starting tonight.

Zaliouk's conducting career was a natural. His sabra mother was a pianist; his Odessa-born father a violinist.

But after studying music in his native Haifa, Zaliouk enrolled as a law student at the Hebrew University.

"My father switched from music to law, and so I decided to take law just as an insurance policy. But it was not what I wanted to do."

Zaliouk also studied conducting at the Rubin Academy of Music in Jerusalem with Mendi Rodan.

Eventually he won a scholarship and went to further his conducting studies at the Guildhall

School of Music in London, where lady luck smiled on him.

"Within several months I was appointed a conductor at the Royal Ballet, and so my career started very quickly. I was there four years when Fonteyn and Nureyev were at their prime, and I traveled with the company on many European tours. It was a very exiting period, and I also found my wife in the ballet."

Conducting ballet, he explains, "is very challenging. In a way it's the only form of conducting that you accompany something visual. Even in opera there is also the audible medium on stage."

Zaliouk was afraid, however, that spending too much time in the ballet pit would block his symphonic career. "I wanted to be free of the ballet conductor stigma. So I restarted my career and had two or three years of struggle."

Living in England he soon enough got dates with all the regional and eventually even major orchestras in the country.

During those years he also held a permanent post at the Paris opera studio and was "the music director and chief builder of the Haifa Symphony between 1975-77."

In 1989, Zaliouk was appointed music director in both Edmon-

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Mission impossible

FORMER US president Jimmy Carter has flown into Bosnia trailing clouds of success from crises over North Korea and Haiti. It is unlikely his diplomatic efforts will be crowned with any similar success in the Yugoslav quagmire, though he must be given due credit for trying.

Although he has no official status, Carter, at 70, has become a respected globe-trotting negotiator - a role he apparently chose because of his famed achievement in wooing Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin to their historic Camp David agreement. However, apart from that effort, the jury remains out on the significance of his subsequent mediations.

Though he opened a channel to North Korea just before the death of the dictator Kim Il Sung, many experts say the death of Kim was the key factor in the North's subsequent nuclear agreement with the United States. Similarly, it is felt he could have achieved little in Haiti without the American invasion fleet bobbing not many meters offshore.

What Carter lacks in Bosnia is the backing of US military might - the determination Washington declared to bring North Korea and Haiti to heel, by armed force if necessary. No such threat hangs over the combatants in Bosnia. Not only that, but they already have de-fanged the United Nations and NATO and are unlikely to be impressed by a mediator who patently bears no gunboats and warplanes to add teeth to his negotiating stance. The intransigent Bosnian Serbs not only buried the efforts of Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, but easily defied their own allies in Belgrade and Moscow to halt a comprehensive five-power peace plan.

Bosnia's Moslems and Croats accepted the plan - to divide Bosnia 50-50 with the Serbs - but the Serbs militarily control 70 percent of the territory and felt comfortable rejecting the peace plan. The peace process has not only ground to a halt since, but it has left the international community humiliated by the UN failure to protect the declared safe area of Bihac, by NATO's failure to fly threatened missions, and by Russia's scuttling of the European Conference on Security and Cooperation because of Bosnia.

Even before Carter arrived in Sarajevo, the wheeling and dealing over his mission had begun. The Bosnian Serbs insisted the visit was at their invitation and was not intended to get around the peace plan. Bosnia's Moslems say that's precisely why the Serbs want Carter and they counter that his objective should be to

bring the Serbs to heel.

The Big Power Contact Group - from the US, Russia, Britain, France, and Germany - is worried that circumventing the peace plan is precisely what the wily Bosnian Serbs are up to. Carter has been briefed more intensively by UN and Contact Group officials than any other visitor to Bosnia, clearly with the aim of mapping the pitfalls and land mines lurking behind the hasty Serb invitation for him to come. In dealing with Carter, the Serbs continue to hold the same card that they used to render NATO impotent, namely their harassment of the UN humanitarian aid effort. UN special envoy Yasushi Akashi was especially anxious that Carter should not swallow Serb declarations that they have lifted their blockade of Sarajevo airport and UN aid convoys. The United Nations is adamant that, apart from some window-dressing gestures, they have not.

Of course it is outrageous that the freedom of the UN peacekeepers should be a bargaining chip in Serb hands - but that is now a fact of life in Bosnia. With impunity the Serbs have taken UN troops hostage, blocked their aid convoys, and stolen their fuel tankers. Far from drawing the threatened NATO response, the actions have forced NATO to back down, lest it make the UN troops' situation worse. The Serbs are clearly aware that human rights is one of Carter's chief concerns. The Europeans and Americans are worried that concessions on the humanitarian issue - which the Serbs may offer now that they have virtually overrun Bihac - will allow the Serbs to give the illusion of progress on peace.

From the Bosnian Moslem viewpoint, the Carter visit is strewn with as many mines as the battlefields around Sarajevo. They see the Serb call for a "cessation of hostilities" as a temporary measure to consolidate the Serbian grip on 70 percent of the country, yet for the Moslems to reject the offer would put them in the enemies-of-peace camp. This is turn might encourage pressure on them to accept a settlement giving them less territory, achieving the suspected Serb aim of chipping away at the peace plan.

In brief, the Moslems believe the Serbs want to make Carter an unwitting tool to dismantle the peace effort. Since almost every other international effort in Bosnia has been discredited, it's a reasonable assumption. It must be hoped Carter proves wiser on this mission impossible than either those who would use him or those who accuse him of naivete.



A steady hand is vital

THE Labor Party is going through a very bad mid-term crisis. Opinion polls show dwindling support for the government and its policies.

Even Yitzhak Rabin's personal popularity appears to be declining. Some party members have reacted by demanding that the government reverse its policy on issues which, in their opinion, are causing this drop in support. Others have retorted that this is a hysterical, irresponsible and politically untenable demand.

Mid-term is arguably the precise stage at which governments shouldn't be taking opinion polls too seriously, but acting decisively to implement the new policy measures they have initiated - especially if these correspond with their declared ideology, or are dictated by circumstances.

This government is involved in an exceptionally large number of revolutionary policy changes. By nature, revolutionary change takes time to mature, and the benefits aren't immediately visible. It is generally the drawbacks which first become apparent - and the opposition has pounced on these as if it has unearthed a treasure trove.

The government seems to be wavering, not because its leaders have any real doubt about what they are doing, but because peripheral ministers and backbenchers are starting to prepare for the next primaries. They don't have the patience to wait until new policies - like those vis-à-vis the Palestinians and taxation on stock-market profits -

SUSAN HATTIS ROLE

prove their worth.

When the government decided on a revolutionary approach to Israel's policy on the PLO, it did so understanding that this was the only way to bring about a change in relations between Israelis and Palestinians. It realized that without such a change, there could be no overall peace in the Middle East, and that Israel could not continue to thrive and prosper.

However, to reach the point at which relations between Israel

If the government takes an initiative, it should stick to it, never mind the vested interests

and the Palestinians undergo a real change (and last week's attack on a soldier who mistakenly drove into the center of Ramallah demonstrated that we are still far away from such a change), certain things must come about.

These include the end of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the Palestinian masses' understanding that their only real alternative is what Yasser Arafat is offering them: independence from Israel, based on coexistence with it.

NEITHER OF these will be achieved if Israel wavers over the

continued implementation of the Oslo Agreement, particularly the holding of elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

If the government still believes - and it does - that going with Arafat is Israel's only real option, it must pursue the policy it embarked on in September 1993, irrespective of the difficulties.

The same applies to the taxation of stock-market profits.

Several months ago, after examining the other alternatives, the government decided that the time had come to tax such profits, and the Knesset passed the necessary legislation. Though many experts believe the tax should have been implemented in a different form, no one believes it is inherently wrong.

What we do have are various vested interests, people who would simply rather not pay taxes, period.

Nothing has changed in recent months to convince anyone that it is not just to impose a tax on stock-market profits. The only thing that has changed is that now some Laborites are trying to make political hay of the issue, irrespective of the long-term damage this is bound to cause.

Now that Rabin is back in the country, he will hopefully come out decisively in favor of the new tax.

If it does prove ineffective or damaging, it can always be amended. The same applies to the Health Insurance Law, which is to come into force on January 1.

The writer is a political scientist.

Silent protest

RUTH ROSEN

HOW does state-enforced prayer affect children whose national or religious backgrounds mark them as stigmatized minorities?

I grew up in a small rural village largely dominated by Lutherans. Every morning at school we said the Lord's Prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. At school events, we again bowed our heads and repeated the Lord's Prayer.

It was the early 1950s. There was nothing unusual about this ritual, except that I was one of two Jewish children in the school.

I first realized I belonged to a minority group at about age seven. But school prayer wasn't how I learned about my "difference."

Many children went to religious instruction after school, and I was stunned when some classmates suddenly accused me of killing Jesus Christ.

At Brownie scout meetings, I found myself friendless. Embarrassed and confused, a few girls confided that they weren't allowed to play with Jewish children. After school, kids sometimes pelted me with snowballs and ethnic slurs I didn't understand.

In retrospect, it was this social awakening, not the school prayer, that hurt so much. How could I know that prejudice caused such stigma? I didn't, and long wondered what terrible and unacceptable personal trait had caused such social rejection.

Enforced prayers in US schools? That brings back some truly awful memories

By then, the Lord's Prayer had taken on new meaning. This was the prayer of people who hated me. I refused to say it any longer.

While others bowed their heads, I held mine high and stood in silence. Naturally, everyone noticed, and my "difference" was further reinforced. I became increasingly alienated from my schoolmates.

MOST US Jews of the post-World War II generation grew up in more urban, tolerant and less antisemitic communities; my experience was unusual. School prayer in itself did not harm me. The real injury came from the hostile environment in which I had to say it.

Regrettably, a hostile environment still exists, especially for the children of recent immigrants. I worry about the Moslem, Buddhist or Hindu children who already face hostility from their schoolmates. Enforced school prayer would only deepen their sense of isolation.

Consider some of the experiences my students have had in the US.

One young woman is from Iran. In 1980, during the hostage crisis, classmates attacked her. "They threw stones at me and called me an Islamic terrorist." A Pakistani student, who is a Moslem, was assailed by her junior-high classmates for belonging to a family of "terrorists." A young Mexican American who grew up in a largely white Protestant community was the victim of relentless xenophobic attacks.

If schools wish to introduce a quiet moment for reflection and meditation, I can't argue against the idea. Most Americans begin their days in a frenzy of activity. A quiet moment would allow us to calm down and reflect on our sense of purpose.

But that is not what the Republicans have in mind. They want local communities to have the right to impose particular prayers in the schools.

Aside from the constitutional guarantee of separation of church and state, this is a terribly divisive proposal. In a nation that grows more multicultural every year, no one prayer is appropriate for children who represent all the world's major religions.

Nor will school prayer enhance the nation's spiritual life. That will occur when Americans resist rampant consumerism, learn to respect each other's humanity and regard poverty in the midst of plenty as a violation of collective responsibility.

That day is still far off.

The writer is professor of history at the University of California. (Los Angeles Times)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LOAN GUARANTEE DISPUTE

Sir, - In her article "Like Luddites" (December 5) Susan Hattis Rolef writes that "at the height of the [loan guarantee] dispute (in 1991-2) the media reported a press conference by Israel's ambassador to Washington, Zalman Shoval, at which he allegedly said that there was no difference between the Likud and Labor on the settlement issue."

Ms. Hattis Rolef must have been misinformed. No press conference of this sort ever took place nor, needless to add, could I have made the above statement at a press conference which never was.

If, as the writer of the article says, the Labor party did distribute at the time a paper among American Congressmen and administrators in a manner which undermined the policies of the democratically elected government of the day, it is not something to be proud of.

Tel Aviv. ZALMAN SHOVAL

LEARNING ARABIC

Sir, - I am puzzled why Gustavo D. Perednik, in his article of December 4 ("To know thy neighbor"), goes to such extraordinary intellectual lengths to avoid saying what he cannot help but blurt out at the end. Namely, his objection to teaching Arabic in schools is because Arabic "is the language of a monolithic, intolerant world, of societies with fanatical inclinations based upon fear, war and oppression of women." In other words, his objections are clouded by cross generalizations, and not the rational argument he tries to present.

Surely Arabic in schools is important because it will enable future generations of Israelis, Jews and Arabs alike, to communicate with each other, in each other's language, thereby showing the modicum of respect that has eluded us for generations. It may be that Perednik has little interest in dialogue, in which case I would question his basic commitment to the principles of Israeli citizenship as laid out in the Declaration of Independence.

JEREMY LEIGH

Jerusalem.

DEPLORABLE BEHAVIOR

Sir, - Every week we read about yet another clash between secular and haredi Jerusalemites regarding the Shabbat closure of Bar-Ilan Street.

For some reason, the Shabbat observers don't realize that by pouring into the street on Friday evenings the cause even more Shabbat desecration - necessitating deployment of police officers to control the crowd. Added to that is the fact that the whole situation only adds fuel to the already uncontrollable fire of *sinat hinam*, senseless hatred between the two factions.

Where are the Torah sages who should be setting their disciples on the right path? It is inconceivable that this could be a case of the Talmudic phrase, *shikha k'hoda'a*, silence implying condonation of such deplorable behavior.

Gloria Magence
Jerusalem.

UNFORTUNATE STATEMENT

Sir, - According to the report of Dan Izenberg in your December 6 edition, Rabin said that the government would not demand that the PLO abrogate the paragraphs in the Palestinian Covenant calling for Israel's destruction as a precondition for beginning negotiations on election and redeployment.

By this unfortunate statement, Rabin lost the golden opportunity to avoid the decision on redeployment.

By this unfortunate statement, Rabin lost the golden opportunity to avoid the decision on redeployment and elections, which is impossible to solve without infringing on the DOP. Moreover, the impression is created that Rabin does not take the above-mentioned obligation of the PLO seriously enough.

It is very hard to understand why Rabin felt compelled to compromise Israel's bargaining position in this crisis way.

DR. JACOB ROSIN

Netanya.

JEWISH BLOOD CHEAPER THAN ARAB BLOOD

Sir, - Two soldiers were commended for foiling another suicide attack at the Erez checkpoint on December 4, while staying within the standing orders for dealing with such attacks. However, in the *Post* description the next day we see that the standing orders would have led to the death of these two soldiers, had the explosive device not misfired.

Let's look at what the two soldiers did, apparently constrained by standing orders. On patrol, they spotted a man with a backpack, coming from the direction of the nearby Palestinian Police checkpoint, behaving suspiciously. He was ordered to stop. In defiance, he increased his pace towards them and reached under his coat.

This should have identified him a potential suicide bomber. Only by shooting at him before he came closer could mortal danger be avoided. However, the soldiers did not shoot at him to prevent his getting close to them. They waited, taking no action.

When he was several meters away, he shouted *Allahu akbar* and his backpack exploded. The response of one soldier was to retreat, but he was jumped by the suicide bomber, who still had another unexploded bomb on his back. The second soldier finally opened fire. But, in spite of the mortal danger, he aimed at his legs - and missed. Meanwhile, the retreating soldier managed to overpower the suicide bomber.

By good luck, only a part of the bomb had exploded, so the two soldiers lived, but the luck of the suicide bomber was not so good - he failed to get to heaven as planned.

The unnecessary exposure our soldiers must risk before they dare shed blood of an attacking Arab murderer is clearly evident. By comparison, the blood of our own soldiers has become cheap, a situation which seriously undermines their morale.

PROF. ARTHUR J. GREENFIELD

Ramat Gan.

From Russia, with clout

DURING the 1992 election campaign, I wrote a series of articles assessing the performance of the Likud government and comparing it with what could be expected of a Labor government led by Yitzhak Rabin.

My conclusion was that the Likud's governance had been so abominable, it deserved to be turned out. But, I added, Labor's own record when in power was so miserable as to make it essential that its power be watered down in any coalition it led. This could only be done by strengthening nonreligious, security-minded potential coalition partners.

Surveying the dismal field of such potential partners, I urged readers who agreed with my analysis to vote for the Russian-immigrant party Da.

Never before had I been subjected to such howls of derision. But looking back at that recommendation midway into the tenure of the Rabin government, I am more than ever convinced that I was right.

My main failure then lay in not being able to persuade enough Russian immigrant and other voters to opt for Da. Had the party got into the Knesset, it would have entered the coalition, tempered its more extreme dovish tendencies, and undermined its disproportionate dependence on Shas and the Arab parties.

The immigrants from the former Soviet Union, who began arriving in large numbers five years ago, today number more than 550,000, about 11 percent of the population. In the last election,

YOSEF GOELL

the Russian vote - primarily a protest vote against a Likud government which had performed so poorly in its absorption policies - gave Labor and Meretz enough votes for four to five Knesset seats.

Even at the reduced rate of the past two years (70,000 newcomers annually), the Russian population can be expected to grow by 100,000 to 150,000 by the next election in November 1996.

The immigrant vote could be the most powerful factor in redrawing the political map

Adding the approximately 180,000 of the previous Soviet aliyah of the late 1960s and the '70s, the Russians will comprise more than 15 percent of the population, and an even higher proportion of the electorate. They are potentially the most powerful factor in the process of the redrawing of Israel's political map.

THE MAIN reason even part of this potential didn't materialize in the last election was that most of the Russians were still too new to the country and its politics. Extreme distrust among the immigrants themselves and their inability to produce an effective and unifying leadership also played a role.

Today, the new immigrants'

disappointment in the Labor government seems as deep as their earlier anger at the Likud government. But their lack of internal unity and the failure of any leadership to emerge is as serious as it was two years ago.

Last week representatives of 16 Russian immigrant organizations met to try to forge a platform for common political action. It is still too early to know whether they will succeed. But it's getting a bit late to prepare successfully to field a new party in time for the next election.

New immigrants are still one of the more disadvantaged groups in the country. After being so sorely disappointed by both the Likud and Labor, they are entitled to aim at direct representation in the Knesset and in the government.

A significant new-immigrant party would also be of great service as the next election will entail the direct election of a prime minister.

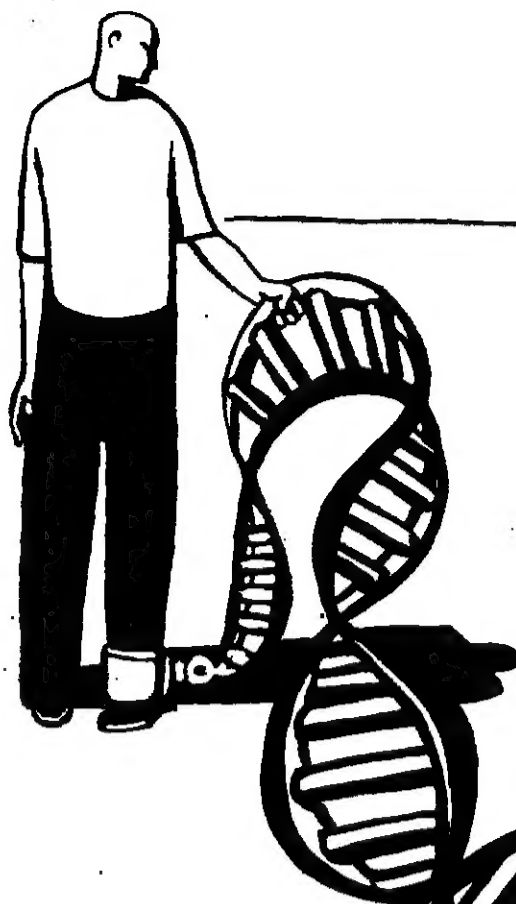
Since overall political reform - which was to include strengthening the Knesset so it could be a restraining factor vis-à-vis the power of a stronger prime minister - has not been enacted, it is all the more important to deny the party of any future premier the ability to vitiate whatever restraining power the legislature will have over the executive.

A fair-sized new immigrant party could provide the necessary corrective. It would also provide an essential balance to the power of the religious and Arab blocs.

The writer comments on public affairs.

Matter Over Mind?

The Curse of Living Within One's Genes



By NATALIE ANGIER

THIS is a banner era for the champions of nature over nurture, who think we have much less say over our impulses, our body shape, our choice of mates, our careers, even our attempts at heroism and generosity, than our wistful imaginations might have fancied.

Scientists recently announced, for example, the discovery of a gene that makes mice get fat and that very well could be involved in some types of human obesity. The most notorious book of 1994, "The Bell Curve," by Charles Murray and Richard J. Herrnstein, insists that there is a strong heritable component to intelligence, and that, sorry, some ethnic groups have a greater share of the bright stuff than others. Researchers have put forth candidate genes for homosexuality, aggression and criminality, which for most of this century were attributed largely to social conditions and upbringing. And a

steady stream of books about the evolution of behavior — most notably "The Moral Animal" by Robert Wright — argues that the hand of natural selection urges powerful men to dump their aging wives for ruble beauties, women to fixate on the thickness of a man's waist, and both sexes to consider dallying in adulterous waters.

By superficial accounting, free will, that Enlightenment notion that we control our destinies, seems beset on all sides by what science is finding in our genetic woodwork.

"I call it the gene-ing of America," said Sarah Blaffer Hrdy, a sociobiologist at the University of California at Davis. "Of course there's such a thing as free will, but we're learning what a tough row we have to hoe in making decisions counter to our urges."

P.C. and Naïve

For their part, those who continue to squeak that maybe nurture and the prevail-

ing culture exert an enormous effect on human behavior are dismissed as politically correct, scientifically naïve, yesterday's news or in a dangerous state of denial.

Paradoxically, as the science of human behavior appears to be moving toward a more genocentric point of view, those studying non-human animals are getting away from the notion of hard-wired behavior and examining the importance of learning and social interaction.

"There's a movement to look at the intel-

ligence and flexibility of animals," said Frans de Waal, a primatologist at Emory University in Atlanta. "Instead of talking about survival machines, we are talking about adaptive decision-making. The extreme reductionism is being left behind."

Why, then, the embracing of neo-determinism in studies of the one species capable of wallpapering an office with evidence of higher learning? Some see the trend as a

Continued on page 3

Fear of Phrases

When はげ 職場の花 = \$%*¿#(!

By JAMES STERNGLD

WHEN Michael Crichton's novel "Rising Sun" was translated into Japanese, some worried that this tale of sly Japanese business samurai taking over America might fan resentments in Japan and worsen relations between the two countries. But the fears were misplaced. Most Japanese found the caricatures in the book funny rather than insulting. And the Japanese publisher had seen to it that the one expression that might really have upset people here had been carefully edited out.

In the English-language version, a half-black, half-Japanese woman describes herself as an outcast in Japan because of her mixed race and a deformed arm. She compares herself with the burakumin, the rarely acknowledged untouchable caste in a society that insists it is classless. The mere mention of that emotionally charged word can leave people here paralyzed. But the Japanese were spared any such awkwardness by the publisher's censors, who removed the reference.

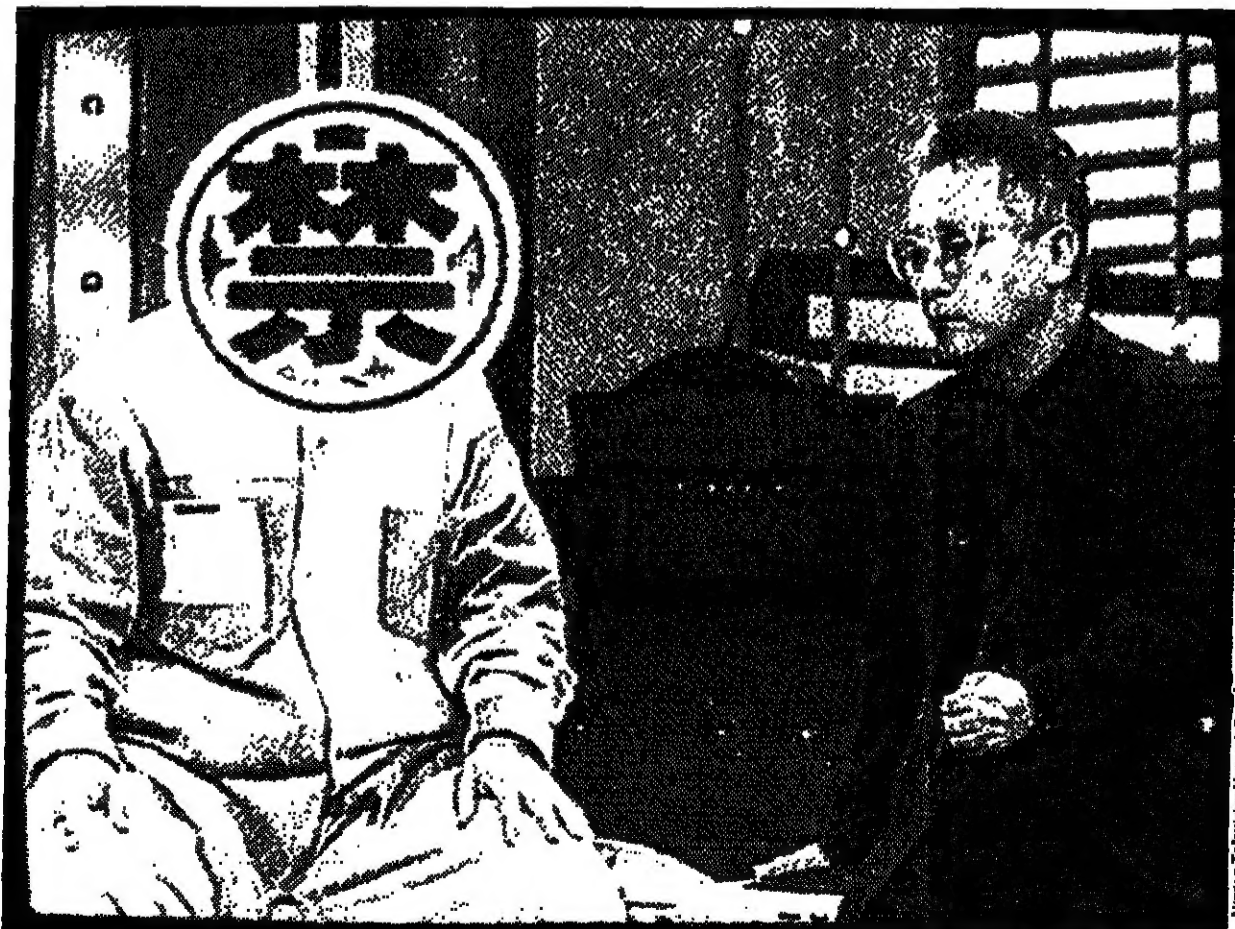
No Offense

"Rising Sun's" fate was merely one of the more visible examples of a trend that, though little discussed until recently, has profoundly shaped broadcasting, journalism, literature and public discourse in Japan over the past several decades.

It might be called political correctness, the rejection of words, images or phrases that give offense or clash with an approved view of the way things ought to be. Similar practices in America have prompted debate and satire for some time.

In the Japanese version, the trend has weeded out many terms that unfairly demeaned various groups, and thus it has at least started to chip away at knee-jerk discrimination. But the urge has also mutated into a zealous campaign to sanitize public utterances, intimidating anyone who might wish to drag sensitive subjects into the open.

It has produced what some here



The banning of certain words has gone so far in Japan that a talk show, "Papado TV," flashes a character meaning "prohibited" over the face of a person who utters one as a buzzer drowns out the sound.

The Japanese have long lists of words they dare not print.

describe as a linguistic reign of fear, a regime of self-censorship in which phrases that could be perceived as controversial are often suppressed. It is a practice that speaks volumes about the ambiguous code the Japanese use to describe a society held to be homogeneous but actually riven with hierarchical distinctions.

Of course, the Japanese have long been known for their indirectness, which makes discussion of sensitive matters an elliptical art. But this trend turns discretion into evasion.

"Word hunting," as it is known, is pervasive. Every publishing or broadcast company has word police who review everything from films to newspaper articles to television shows, making sure that the taboo words that have been compiled on lengthy in-house lists are not used, or that euphemisms are employed. Officials say the lists have been growing in recent years.

Words or phrases that hint at the secondary status of women or the handicapped — or even left-handed people — are generally excised or

replaced. Many publications even avoid the most commonly used word for woman, onna, because it has associations with the second-class status to which women tend to be relegated. The words for short, tall and bald are generally avoided. The Emperor and the Imperial system are rarely written about in any depth and almost never criticized.

No 'Slaughterhouses'

Several years ago, a newscaster underwent a 13-month-long ordeal of criticism after he suggested that drug violence in New York could turn the streets into a "slaughter-

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Repositioning

Can Bill Clinton really lead by following?

By Michael Wines

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Chechens and Other Bogeymen

Russians stare hard at their neighbors and see demons.

By Steven Erlanger

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Charity and Reality

How the road to Rwanda was paved with good intentions.

By Raymond Bonner

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Inside Intel

The fall of a corporate Sparta.

By John Markoff

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The World

Demons in Russia's Mind Arise Again — in the Flesh

By STEVEN ERLANGER

MOSCOW
ONCE again, in Chechnya, Russia finds itself in conflict with its own demons — the embodiment of particular national fears and anxieties in what remains a multiethnic empire. Nationality is not only a category in the Soviet passports that Russians still use as a means for racial and ethnic identification, it is a set of assumptions and ambivalent feelings in Russian heads.

In confronting the latest Chechen challenge to Russian sovereignty and reopening a Caucasian conflict that has simmered for 150 years, the Russians are also reopening a Pandora's box of feelings about the restive minorities in their midst, from Muslim Tatars in Yakutia in Siberia.

To be sure, every imperial nation has its own collection of ethnic and racial generalizations, Americans not least among them.

But the Russian demonology finds its special nature in the deep insecurity of Russians about their place in the world — culturally, religiously, technologically. Are

it easier to embrace old myths about themselves — the simple, honest, spiritual Slav — and the ethnic stereotypes that bespeak the insecurities of both past and present, given that so many of the minorities in the Russian ambit were once conquerors, like the Tatars, or formidable military adversaries, like the Chechens.

So the Chinese and Central Asians are the barbaric, faceless, yellow horde that may once again drown the noble Slavs; Estonians are the cold, icy blondes who should choke on their own contempt; Azeris, cousins of the Turks, are criminal and cheat us at the market; and the Jews are greedy, calculating and so devious that they ruined us by making the Bolshevik Revolution.

Similarly, the predominance of Muslim Chechens in the criminal gangs that bedevil Russia — and the general predominance of Caucasians and Jews in the wild new world of semi-capitalist business — have only added to the deep conviction among Russians that they are somehow congenitally unsuited to the modern world. While Russians may have higher, more spiritual values than other peoples, they feel, they are uniquely prey to the cleverer and more wily dark-skinned people of the south. And even their spiritual values are under threat, as their children turn from intellectual pursuits to make deals and money or forsake Russian Orthodoxy for Western evangelists.

This sense of difference has been deeply ingrained. The ethnic label "Slav" itself is believed to have come from "slavo," or word, to signify people with the gift of speech. The label "Nemits," meaning "those who are dumb," was given to all other Occidentals, and later, specifically, to the Germans. Even under Peter the Great, who invited foreigners to come teach their business, bureaucratic and military culture to Russians, the "Nemits" were kept in separate settlements, or ghettos, and ordinary Russians were afraid of them.

Kowtowing and Contempt

Under the czars, and especially under the Soviet Union, the Russians were then ruling positions arrogantly. They were patronizing to other nationalities, who mostly paid lip service to their Russian overlords. The Russians always understood, in their hearts, that they were hated by many of those who kowtowed, but they were strong enough not to care very much. Now, they wonder.

Such feelings can be tracked throughout Russian literature. Just as Gogol and others lavished contempt on the Jews, the Chechens and the long war in suppress them stirred some of Russia's greatest writers.

Tolstoy's marvelous story about a Chechen leader, Hadji Murat, who defects to the Russians and is betrayed by them, offers an acute portrait of the wary relationship, even as the Chechens were losing the war for independence that ended formally in 1864.

From the Russian side, there is admiration for Chechen bravery, intelligence and

Lermontov and Tolstoy wrote of how fiercely Chechens hate.



Russian-Chechen distrust is centuries old. A Chechen on guard in Grozny last week.



Jews were long demonized throughout the old Russian empire. A street scene in Krasnaya Sloboda, an all-Jewish city in Azerbaijan.

Russians' insecurity figures heavily in their fear of minorities.

they a European people or some mongrel Asian one? Is theirs a superior culture, destined to rule, or a besieged one destined to flail forever at relentless enemies burrowing in from every direction?

More painfully, Russians ask if they are "civilized," the way Westerners are, or primitive and somehow inferior, doomed always to lag behind countries like Germany and America.

Those worries are heightened in a period of humiliation and dislocation like the one Russia is going through. Having lost one huge empire and set of beliefs (without entirely understanding why), it now fears to lose even the smaller empire, the Russian Federation itself, which has never before been a country with its current borders.

So traditional Russian demons — Chechens and Caucasians, Jews and Asians, foreigners generally — evoke special anxieties now. As Russians enjoy a new form of freedom, there is also a new chasm of uncertainty, and they feel beset on all sides by alien influences and cultures. Even the new and welcome influx of sophisticated consumer goods, so much of it Asian and European, has underlined a strong and sharply embarrassing sense of just how bad "our" Russian products were and are.

It is a form of moral confusion that makes

ing for the power that has ruined their lives: Tolstoy describes the destruction of a Chechen village: "The emotion felt by every Chechen, old and young, was stronger than hatred. It was not hatred, it was a refusal to recognize these Russian dogs as men at all, and a feeling of such disgust, revulsion and bewilderment at the senseless cruelty of these creatures that the urge to destroy them — like the urge to destroy rats, venomous spiders or wolves — was an instinct as natural as self-preservation."

Lermontov summarized the Chechen in the Russian imagination this way, in his poem "Izmail-bey": "Their god is freedom, their law is war," he wrote. "Their hatred is as boundless as their love."

'These Russian Dogs'

Three years after the Chechens declared independence, thumbing their nose at Moscow, Russia is trying to reassert its sway. But its ambivalence is clear: Moscow gives ultimatums, then amends them; tanks roll, then stop. Why the delays? Partly because of the Russians' own fear of failure against the fierce Chechen demon. That is also why they have been so reluctant to storm the Chechen capital, Grozny — which means "menacing," or "threatening," in the same sense it is used for the demonic, blood-thirsty czar, Ivan Grozny, known in the West as "Ivan the Terrible."

Post-Mortem for Charities

Compassion Wasn't Enough in Rwanda

By RAYMOND BONNER

KIGALI, Rwanda
THE epic exodus of Rwandan refugees into Zaire last summer stirred deep compassion among Americans. A restaurant in Boston raised \$50,000 by asking diners to pay \$1 for a glass of water; at a bar in Fairbanks, Alaska, patrons collected \$5,000 one night. Many other Americans simply got out their checkbooks.

"I think it was unprecedented," Julia Taft, president of InterAction, a coalition of more than 150 nonprofit organizations, said of the outpouring of compassion and money. Nearly \$100 million in cash and goods was given to charities for Rwanda, she said.

Was the money well spent? No one has suggested that it went into someone's pocket, and it would be too harsh to say it did no good. But in general, United Nations and American officials who coordinated the relief effort say that what the private humanitarian organizations contributed to the well-being of the refugees was not commensurate with the money donated — that not as many lives were saved as might have been.

No Shortage of Feeling

The people who went to Zaire did not lack compassion and enthusiasm. What they did lack was the experience and skills needed to cope with an emergency in Africa, and too often the charities sent what they thought was needed without consulting the experts on the scene.

It has been an axiom of charitable giving that the best organizations are those with the lowest administrative and overhead costs. But some of the organizations that get the highest praise in Rwanda have the highest overhead. Experienced relief workers say it would have been better if American organizations had spent more on overhead; that might have meant hiring a health specialist, doctor or engineer to help decide how to spend the money.

The Rwandan horror left tens of thousands of children without parents, who were killed when the Hutu massacred the Tutsi or when cholera struck the Hutu refugees who fled to Zaire. The children were often cared for in centers supported by American charities. "The medical care in many centers for unaccompanied children was poor," said Dr. Bradley Woodruff, who works for the Centers for Disease Control and was in the camps in Zaire this summer. In particular, he said, the foreign medical volunteers did not know how to treat children with severe diarrhea. This was because in America, a child with bad diarrhea is taken to a hospital and fed intravenously; in Africa,



Help for Rwandans was hampered, officials say, because compassion was not always backed by efficiency. Children with cholera were treated by Doctors Without Borders, whose work was praised by relief experts.

and especially in an emergency, a hospital and I.V. drug setup are probably not available and someone must constantly give the child fluids.

Cholera was the big killer of the refugees in Zaire, with bodies lined up along the road by the hundreds during two weeks in July. One charity, AmeriCares in New Canaan, Conn., shipped 10,000 cases of Gatorade to Goma, believing that it would provide cholera patients with the fluids they need. "It is the same ingredients you would get in an I.V.," the AmeriCares president, Stephen Johnson, said last summer.

But while Gatorade might be good for athletes, it is not good for cholera, said Dr. Michael Toole, an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control. Gatorade does not have all the essential ingredients that an I.V. has, and people who were given it might have taken more appropriate solutions, Dr. Toole said.

Weakening the impact of the private aid was the refusal of many organizations to coordinate with the experts on the scene. For instance, said Filippo Grandi, who was commander of the relief effort as the head of

the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, "there was an overkill in the medical sector." The worst of the cholera was over by the time many of the doctors started arriving, and by then what was needed were engineers and sanitation experts, individuals with the skills to set up camps for several hundred thousand refugees, Mr. Grandi said.

A Case for Overhead

The amount consumed by overhead is not always the reliable guide to a charity's effectiveness that it has been thought to be. Oxfam-U.S. has a relatively high overhead — 11 percent — but the \$1.6 million it raised for Rwanda went to support the work of Oxfam-U.K., which put in a much-needed water system for the refugees. Many organizations, whose overhead was only 1 or 2 percent, received far lower marks from relief organizers.

If officials who supervised the relief effort were to make recommendations on whom to contribute to —

There was lots of sympathy and money. More planning would have helped.

which they won't do for political reasons — the top of the list would include Oxfam; the International Rescue Committee, which has been assisting refugees since 1933; Doctors Without Borders, the European organization that led the assault on cholera, and Concern, an Irish organization that raises money in the United States. Two lesser-known organizations also draw praise from the experts — the American Refugee Committee, based in Minneapolis, which sent health teams to Zaire and, even more important, trained local people in health care; and Food for the Hungry, in Scottsdale, Ariz., which ran a camp for orphans.

Often people give money to the organization with the best public relations. Many donors decided whom to give to after consulting a list of organizations working in Rwanda that was drawn up by the Associated Press and published by newspapers across the country.

Some organizations on the newspapers' list were not members of InterAction, the coalition of nonprofit charities, which has adopted ethical standards for its members, including requirements that the board of directors serve without compensation and that its activities be "open and accessible to scrutiny by its donors."

AmeriCares, which was on the list — and which raised \$1.2 million for the Rwandan refugees — withdrew from InterAction a few years ago because it has a different philosophy and approach to relief.

"We're unorthodox," Mr. Johnson said. "We sort of work by the seat of our pants." AmeriCares' overhead, he said, is less than 1 percent.

InterAction officials said that AmeriCares had withdrawn because it felt that the coalition's ethical code was too strict. Another organization on the newspaper list, but not a member of InterAction, was Operation Blessing, which is affiliated with Pat Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network. The organization raised \$1.7 million for Rwanda, said a spokesman, Jodie Nelson. But figures provided by the organization show that it spent more on flying its volunteers, which included television crews, to Zaire, than on anything else. One reason the air-transportation cost was so high, \$356,000, was that the organization rotated its medical missionary teams every two weeks — sending them home when, experts say, they were just starting to learn what to do.

The Nation

The Talk Is Tax Cuts: Look Who's Talking Too

By MICHAEL WINES

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S televised Thursday night demerol aside, the rasher of middle-class tax cuts that he and other politicians now propose clearly begins the greased-pig chase toward 1996 and national political dominance. And by entering the tax-cut scramble — and muting his support for a smaller Federal deficit — Mr. Clinton has unmistakably chosen what George Bush might have called the prudent political course.

But just as surely, what happened last week was about something far bigger than politics. It was about control of the national discourse — leadership, in a word — and here, some experts say, the President's choice may prove much riskier.

Since he won office 25 months ago, Mr. Clinton has been regularly accused of upending policies and campaign promises to accommodate a new poll or fresh advice, but few much doubted that the switch was his, and that for better or worse, it set the nation's agenda. With last week's events, that is no longer true.

A President at Sea

Instead, for the first time, Mr. Clinton is playing catch-up, reversing course not by choice but by the force of an ideology that has proved more powerful, or at least more popular, than his own. The ideology is distinctly Republican, and it is propelled by the same tide of public disgust with government that Mr. Clinton rode into office and which now sweeps him along like a cork in the ocean. The question is whether Mr. Clinton's decision to go with the flow will allow him to again control the debate, or whether the tide will simply carry him — and maybe the concept of all-powerful Presidents — out to sea.

"There's a term of art in history where the word 'pretender' is used — 'so-and-so is the princely pretender,'" Representative Jim Leach, the moderate Iowa Republican, said in an interview last week. "What you

have today, in my judgment, is not a presidential pretender, because Bill Clinton is legitimately the President, but a leadership pretender."

Mr. Leach was speaking of Newt Gingrich, the new House speaker, who seized the conch shell from the President by succinctly promising to cut taxes and neuter the Government, and then parlaying the pledge into a Republican landslide. Mr. Gingrich's tax plan, a credit of \$500 per child for all but the wealthiest households, seems the godparent to Mr. Clinton's more recent plan, whose centerpiece is a \$500-a-kid credit for families of more modest means. The same is true of Mr. Gingrich's promise, in the Contract with America, to take a meat ax to the Federal bureaucracy, an obvious antecedent to Mr. Clinton's own pledge on Thursday to finance his tax package with a \$60 billion slice in Federal programs.

But Mr. Gingrich's boldness — and success — has drawn other aspiring leaders and some aspiring presidents into the newly shaped debate. In the Senate, the

For now, Clinton settles for leading the followers of the attack on government.

Republican presidential aspirant, Phil Gramm of Texas, promptly announced his own tax break for families, double the cost of Mr. Clinton's.

And in the House, Representative Richard Gephardt of Missouri, the leader of House Democrats, onetime presidential candidate and logical heir to power should his party regain Congress, trotted out his own generous child tax credit two days before Mr. Clinton. He tied it to a caustic attack on Gingrich-style Republicans — he called them "trickle-down terrorists" — that contrasted with the more conciliatory approach taken by the White House.



Stephen Wong of Boston took in the President's message at an electronics store in Cambridge, Mass.

Such sudden popularity is less a testament to the proposals' wisdom — virtually all experts call it folly to cut taxes when the Government is awash in debt — than to the seismic shift Mr. Gingrich has engineered in the political bedrock. It's easy enough to dominate the tax-and-spend debate by promising greater goodies, and the notion of sacrifice is no more popular than it was in the Reagan years. But what is most striking is that except for Mr. Gingrich's, the current tax-cut proposals did not even exist before last week.

In particular, Mr. Clinton groomed himself for the 1992 presidential race as an advocate of streamlined government, tacked on a proposal for a middle-class tax cut during the campaign and shelved it, shortly after taking office, until last week. And until last week, the only serious budget-cutting proposal by the White House for the remainder of Mr. Clinton's term was in health-care programs — and even there, the intent was to curb the deficit rather than to offset money lost from a new tax break.

By comparison, Mr. Gingrich's faction has more or less consistently argued that tax cuts will force government to shrink and gain popular support for huge cuts in the Federal bureaucracy that will be enacted, they utterly insist, now that they are in power.

Pretenders to leadership like Mr. Gingrich have been novelties in modern politics, though not in Ameri-

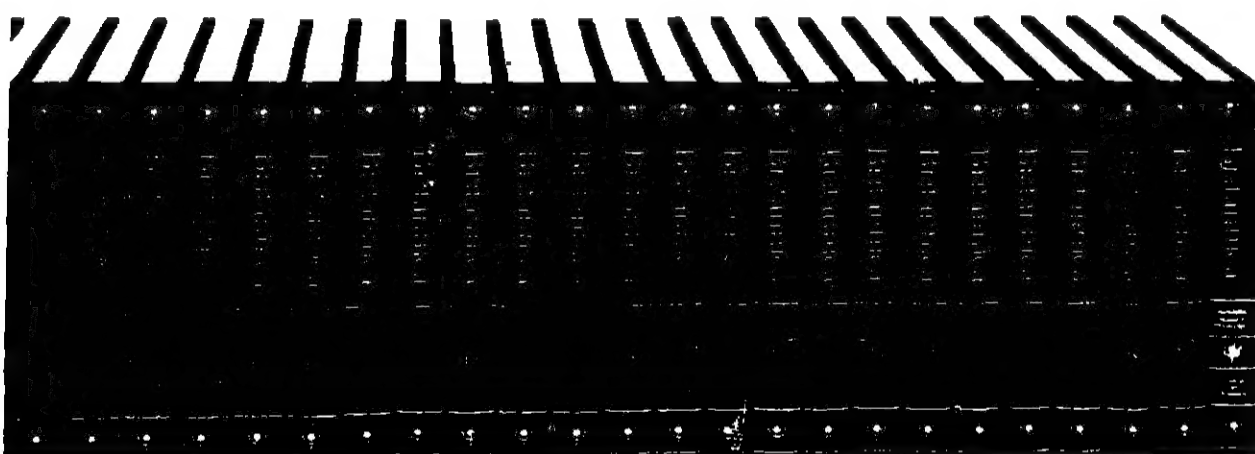
can history. Until mushrooming government and the cold war concentrated power in the White House, notes the historian Michael Beschloss, presidents were always tending off challenges to their national authority from some congressman, radio preacher, demagogue or machine boss who could offer a more appealing show to the voting public.

The Power of Ideas

Mr. Clinton's ability to adapt his own appealing show to the political climate has taken him to the White House. Now it will be seen whether this President, the first in decades without the trappings of a bottomless Federal checkbook or a Soviet threat, will fend off a challenge from Mr. Gingrich, the first modern political figure whose power is based solely on a belief.

"We fomented this revolution in the early 1980's on the premise that ideas mattered — that political power was the means by which you got your ideas accepted. That's a form of leadership," said Representative Robert Walker of Pennsylvania, an old Gingrich ally. "The President, I think, comes from the old school that says political power is an end in itself — that it gives you the chance to utilize your ideas once you're there. It's two different leadership styles coming into focus. Right now, we're doing reasonably well."

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The Mind Tries to Live Within Its Genes

Continued from page 1

reaction against gains made by those traditionally ignored in society. "This turn to biology is a way of not listening at a time when many groups are speaking who hadn't been heard before," said Carol Gilligan, a professor of psychology at Harvard. "We don't need to listen to women or African-Americans; we only have to look at their genes under a microscope."

The trend toward looking to science to explain social woes may be seen as part of the general shift rightward. If intelligence or propensity for violence is fixed before birth, why bother with expensive social programs?

At the same time, the deterministic view could be used against many conservative principles, particularly those that stress personal responsibility. If a criminal is a criminal because of lousy genes, what will we accomplish with drastic penalties?

Others say the rise of behavioral genetics has nothing to do with politics. Because of technical breakthroughs like the polymerase chain reaction, which multiplies tiny samples of DNA into analyzable quantities, researchers are getting awfully good at identifying genetic markers linked to various traits. Yet they caution that they are at the bare beginning of their understanding of what these markers mean.

"What's happening with molecular genetics today is what happened with chemistry back when the periodic table came into being," said Jules Hirsch, physician-in-chief at Rockefeller University in New York and an expert on obesity. "We're putting together the fundamental building blocks into a representation that we didn't have before." But just as knowing that humans are made up of oxygen, carbon, nitrogen, sulfur and hydrogen does not tell us much about who we are, he said, a map of the human genome will be far from a meaningful book of life. "It's an essential step," Dr. Hirsch said, "but ultimately it's no more than another description of anatomy."

Dr. Hirsch cites the newly detected fat-linked gene as an example of how primitive understanding is of a trait like obesity. Scientists have known for some time that animals and humans can carry a predisposition toward putting on pounds, and the so-called obese gene is part of the story.

But the sharp rise in obesity among Americans cannot be explained by genetics, for it has occurred far too quickly to have resulted from a change in gene frequency in the population. The national fatness index is likely linked to such old-fashioned environmental factors as easy availability of junk foods and excessive sitting before televisions and work stations. This does not mean that genes are not involved in some types of obesity, but how, when or why they are remains entirely unknown.

Effect and Cause

One reason it is difficult to sort out hereditary from environmental influences is that the two categories are only part of the narrative of how a human being is put together. For example, much evidence suggests that what happens in early life has a profound impact on both physiology and behavior — so profound that the effect resembles an innate trait.

Dr. Torsten Wiesel, president of Rockefel-

er University, points out that the wiring of the visual apparatus obviously is laid down by one's genes; yet if a baby is born with cataracts that are not removed, the child could end up blind, the visual wiring having atrophied from neglect. By the same token, there are suggestions that how a baby is fed affects a later predisposition toward gaining weight or staying lean, the fatness gene be damned. Freud may have fallen out of fashion, but his emphasis on the importance of early childhood events very likely has a biological logic to it.

Yet even as the squabble intensifies toward rank incivility, a number of scientists are attempting to substitute the word "and" for "versus" in the tired nature vs. nurture formulation, and to add a few other elements into the mix. They are looking for a perspective on human nature that acknowledges both its biological basis and its extraordinary plasticity. After all, they say, the ability of human beings to adapt and respond moment by moment to practically any challenge thrown their way explains their success in re-imagining the globe to suit their needs.

"There's a reductionist desire to go one way or another," toward biology or environ-

Fat? Smart? Science finds markers. People find excuses.

ment, said Professor de Waal at Emory. "But anyone with a sane mind will try to keep both poles alive and work with the tension."

Some evolutionary thinkers are looking, in addition, at the impact of culture on shaping behavior. This sounds at first bluish like the environment half of the nature-nurture riddle, but culture in this formulation is more fixed than an individual's particular environment.

"Nobody invents a whole cultural repertoire for themselves," said Peter J. Richerson, a professor of environmental studies at the University of California at Davis who studies the evolution of culture. "Therefore, culture can act to constrain or structure our choices in life almost as much as genes do." Putting this trichotomy together, he used the example of obesity. A person may inherit a tendency to store calories — that's the genetic component. Should the person eat too much, the body will balloon — that's the environmental factor at work. The cultural part of the equation, said Dr. Richerson, is the technology that made food so available, or perhaps the culture that emphasizes a high-fat, meat-based diet rather than a Japanese diet of bean curd and fish.

Even as science reveals what most of us already know — that humans are mighty complex organisms — the tendency persists to apportion blame as suits the circumstances. In some cases, it is handy to blame nature, to say all men are born pigs and their Y chromosomes made them do it. At other times, blame the individual for character flaws — the fat person for sloth or gluttony. This tendency may itself be innate, for in each case the blamer ends up with the delicious sense of superiority.

Ideas & Trends

The Chip on Intel's Shoulder

By JOHN MARKOFF

ANDREW GROVE, the chairman of the Intel Corporation, the world's largest computer-chip maker, has long run his company with the dictum, "Only the paranoid survive."

In recent weeks, evoking memories of Richard Nixon at the height of the Watergate crisis, Mr. Grove has retreated to his "war room" inside the company's corporate headquarters in Santa Clara.

He has been driven there by a national uproar caused by an embarrassing flaw in Intel's newest and most advanced personal-computer nerve center, the Pentium microprocessor chip, which until this month seemed destined to solidify Intel's monopoly hold over the PC industry.

Now Intel's former ally, I.B.M., has condemned the chip as unsafe for personal computing, consumers are howling for replacements, the company is facing a flurry of lawsuits and Intel's carefully honed "Intel Inside" advertising campaign is a shambles. Worst of all, columnists have begun suggesting that the simplest way to avoid the problem — the chip occasionally goes off at long division — is to buy a computer from Intel's archenemy, Apple.

'Righteousness'

Overnight, an error caused by a few missing circuits has grown into a great business crisis, and parallels are being drawn to other corporate calamities like the Exxon Valdez and the Tylenol scare.

How did a sporadic arithmetic error that was not detected for months, in the chip that Intel insists is its most heavily tested microprocessor in history, become the heart of such a debacle?

The answer is rooted in Intel's distinctive corporate culture, and suggests that Intel went wrong in much the same way as other big and unresponsive companies before it. Intel has traditionally valued engineering over product marketing. Inward-looking and wary of competitors (from experience with the Japanese), it developed a bunker mentality, a go-for-the-jugular attitude and a reputation for arrogance.

"There are certain elements in Intel's culture, and one is righteousness," said Federico Faggin, a former Intel engineer and co-inventor of its first microprocessor. "The attitude at Intel is, 'We're better than everyone else and what we do is right and we never make mistakes.'"

"If Hewlett-Packard is Silicon Valley's Athens, then Intel is its Sparta," said Arno Saxenian, a University of California at Berkeley professor who has studied high-technology corporate cultures.

Intel is legendary for its military-style "Operation Crush" (as in "crush the competition," according to its strategists), a marketing drive begun in the late 1970's to undercut two competitors, Motorola and Zilog. It ultimately secured the prized contract to supply I.B.M. with a chip for its personal computer, setting up Intel's domi-



Andrew Grove, Intel's chief (in suit), fostered insularity that stoked the chip furor.

nation of the modern computing industry.

Intel has also adopted bullying legal tactics, engaging in a long courtroom brawl with a rival, Advanced Micro Devices, over a 1982 contract that gave A.M.D. the right to make copies of Intel chips.

Yet not all its campaigns have been victories, and much of Intel's paranoia today originated when the company was driven from the computer memory chip business by its Japanese rivals in the early

An insular corporate culture, arrogance and a consumer debacle.

1980's. In 1982 I.B.M. stepped in to invest \$250 million in the chip maker so it could survive the challenge. But the bitter defeat has continued to shape Intel's world view.

In contrast to Intel's professional co-founders, Gordon Moore and Robert Noyce, Mr. Grove, 55, a Hungarian immigrant who became an engineer, epitomizes the take-no-prisoners style, fostering a single, determined focus: each year building microchips that squeeze ever more transistors into the same space.

But the technologist's mind-set did little to prepare Intel for the consumer marketplace. Although it spent hundreds of millions of dollars on its "Intel Inside" and Pentium ad campaigns, the consumer-oriented strategy unraveled last month when Mr. Grove dismissed customers' requests for chips to replace the Pentium.

Last summer, Intel's engineers discovered that the Pentium would on rare occasions make a division error. As many as four million chips had been manufactured before the glitch was noticed. After assem-

bling a special task force to evaluate the problem, the company decided the error would recur so infrequently — once every nine billion calculations, Intel said — that it was not necessary to notify customers.

After the flaw was reported by a mathematics professor, Intel officials decided that the company, not customers, would decide whether to replace chips.

Rather than begin a general recall, which would have cost several hundred million dollars, Mr. Grove said in a notice on the Internet that those wishing a replacement chip would have to call Intel and explain how they were using their Pentium-based computers. Then Intel would decide if a replacement was warranted.

The uproar over the policy grew, then I.B.M. (itself once faulted for being an unresponsive giant) announced last week that its researchers had found that the division error could happen far more frequently than Intel acknowledged.

In a move that some in the industry said was marked by self-interest, because I.B.M. makes a rival chip, the giant computer maker said it would stop shipping Pentium-based computers until the problem was resolved. The move left Intel seeming grossly insensitive to consumer concerns.

"What Intel clearly should have done is issued a bug report as soon as they found out it was a reproducible problem," said Timothy May, a former Intel semiconductor engineer. "Instead, by keeping it mum, they backed themselves into a corner."

But although he has issued a public apology for the flaw, Mr. Grove has been unwilling to personally come forward in an effort to restore customer confidence.

"The test of a great company is in how they handle disasters," said James F. Moore, head of Geopartners, a high-tech consulting firm. "This is one where you can't behave like a paranoid. This is one where only the compassionate survive."



Power Rangers set for action in the struggle against the forces of evil.

Go Go Paranoia!

By DOUGLAS MARTIN

THERE are, to judge from the front pages and the 11 o'clock news, three great forces menacing the post cold war world. They are: the rising tide of ferocious nationalisms, the collapse of NATO and Power Rangers.

Whole countries — Canada and New Zealand, for now — have banned the "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers" television show. Otherwise sensible people, forgetting that small boys have never needed an excuse to kick each other on playgrounds, suddenly perceive a shocking increase in violence among the young that they attribute to the show, and to the dolls and toys it spawned.

Something there is that does not love a craze. If kids like it (and somebody is making money), it must be bad. Thus the Rangers join the list of toys and TV shows and movies that, through some alchemy of timing, marketing and who-knows-what-else, rose from the pop cultural muck to capture the mind of America's (and everybody else's) youth, inevitably to be denounced by parents, teachers and panels of oligists. Remember the Cabbage Patch dolls (corrupting commercial), the Lion King (species supremacist), the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (violent) and Elvis Presley (his hips wiggled).

Terrifying stories begin to circulate, like this one related by Dr. Carolyn Pataki, a child psychiatrist at Lenox Hill Hospital: a 3-year-old boy became lost in a shopping mall. When a security guard found the



A fight on a Power Rangers TV show.

crying child and asked his name, he would only stammer, "Jason, the red ranger."

From Norway came the chilling tale of a 5-year-old girl kicked to death by Ranger-inspired playmates. Scandinavian networks promptly banished the program until a police investigation found a flaw in the story: It wasn't true. (The Power Rangers promptly went back on the Nordic air.)

But isn't this the way it has always been? Ever as news stories tell of conferences of kindergarten teachers obsessing on Ranger fever, old-timers remember how comic books became the subject of scrutiny after a psychiatrist in 1954 published "Seduction of the Innocent."

The result was the fraying away of an industry estimated to be churning out a billion books a year. The industry created the Comics Code Authority, to police itself. Not until the 1980's, when rock-and-roll and television were the alarming news, did comics begin a resurgence.

New threats, of course, will always pop up to be subjected to endless (mindless?) commentary. One recalls the articles a few years ago about department-store fist-fights over scarce Cabbage Patch dolls. Or the thoughts of some psychiatrists about pizza-savoring sewer turtles.

"Of particular interest is the psychological basis for the Turtles' appeal, and whether Turtlemania should be a cause for alarm," wrote the psychiatrist Harvey P. Greenberg at the height of the craze.

Robbed of Childhood?

Maybe, things are different, of course. Perhaps intensive bargaining by profit mongers is robbing children of their childhood. "They take the creativity away from the kids," said Kent Horton, principal of St. Augustine School in the South Bronx. "When I was a kid, we made our own things with blocks of wood."

Solace might be found in a study by Charles Mackay, a 19th-century barrister. It is called "Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds." It remarked that men think in herds but recover their senses one by one. So here's the latest on Power Rangers, direct from my 7-year-old son, Roy: "I'm not that interested in Power Rangers anymore. Like, they're not that real. I'm interested in two things: knights and pirates."

A Fear of Phrases Muffles Debate in Japan

Continued from page 1

house." That word is generally avoided because the burakumin traditionally handled butchering of animals.

Japan's largest newspaper, the Yomiuri Shimbun, has an internal guide listing 175 proscribed words and phrases, from "burakumin" to "blind" and "crazy." Even metaphorical uses of those words, as in "blind alley," are banned. The comparable manual for TV Asahi, a major network, has 162 entries. One talk show, Papeo TV, superimposes the character meaning "forbidden" over the face of any guest who mentions a sensitive word.

Yoshiaki Ohta, editor of a magazine published by a broadcasting company union, said many publishers have developed computer programs that sniff out questionable words automatically. He said the heart of the issue is not that various minority groups are raising objections to such terms, but that publishers are acquiescing, contributing to the culture of evasion.

All this explains why Yasutaka Tsutsui, a popular science-fiction writer, created a sensation recently when he tried to draw the line. Forced to withdraw a passage from a language textbook because an epilepsy association objected, he vowed never to write again.

"Fear rules in Japan," said Mr. Tsutsui, during an interview in his home in this port in western Japan. "That is exactly what this shows."

The passage, which had been excerpted from a story he wrote 30 years ago, describes a robot police officer forcing a driver from his car after discerning irregular brain waves from the man. The Japanese Epilepsy Association complained the passage might encourage a view that people with odd brain wave patterns, including epileptics, should be hospitalized.

Mr. Tsutsui emphasized that, though he disagreed with the association, he was not complaining that it had spoken out. The problem, he said, was that publishers rarely stand up to such complaints. Anyway, he said, excising words is a poor substitute for rooting out discrimination.

"People try to act as though discrimination doesn't exist, but just ignoring it does not make it disappear," he said. "Cleansing literature won't improve understanding."

Who's Sorry Now?

The most striking sign of the extremes to which word hunting has gone is the fact that the burakumin have started to protest — not any longer over the way they are described, but over the fact that the mere mention of their existence has become a taboo. It is an extraordinary irony: the burakumin, who helped spawn the climate of fear 20 years ago by intimidating any publication that mentioned the group, are now struggling to rekindle open discussion. And they are failing. Kenji Kobayashi, head of Kaiho Shuppan, a publish-

ing company run by the Buraku Liberation League, said his group failed to get the Japanese publisher of "Rising Sun" to restore the passage on the discrimination against burakumin. He added that on several occasions major newspapers rejected advertisements for his company's books — because the titles used the prohibited term, burakumin.

"Even the Buraku Liberation League cannot remove this self-censorship now," he said. "I wonder for whom are they doing this? Are they hiding the fact that there is discrimination?"

Butchers, Beggars, Entertainers

The burakumin caste was created several hundred years ago when Japanese society was rigidly stratified. At the bottom were those who butchered animals and handled leather, as well as entertainers, beggars and others who engaged in "polluted" occupations.

Though the designation of burakumin was officially abolished more than 100 years ago, and there is no physical distinction between these people and other Japanese, the group has lower income and education levels. There is little intermarriage because special investigators are commonly hired by families to look into the background of prospective mates and ferret out those from undesirable families, including Koreans. The burakumin, in short, are marked.

The league has recently taken an unusual step in its campaign to reopen discussion. It published a book by a well-known comedian, Tamayo, that tackles the problem of discrimination by making light of it.

"We were probably the only publishing house that could put out this kind of book," said Mr. Kobayashi. "When the issue of the buraku appears in public, it is always very serious and involves tears. Maybe we need a more lighthearted approach."

Tamayo is the sort of salty-tongued comedian who can make people chuckle over such sensitive issues, while revealing the deep veins of discrimination that run through Japanese society. But the real problem, Tamayo argued, is not just the existence of discrimination, but a pervasive fear that if people speak out about it they will be ostracized.

"It's one thing I hate about this country," Tamayo said. "You just don't stand up to your friends or your family or your country. Once you are accused of stepping out of line, everyone around you abandons you. They cut you off. People are afraid," she added. "They are afraid of being abandoned."

Few believe the word police can be brought to heel quickly, but the growing recognition of the problem — there have been several big magazine articles and books on the subject since Mr. Tsutsui launched his protest — heartens some of the critics.

"The fact that the media is now writing about this subject is new and important," said Mr. Tsutsui. "Discussion on the subject is finally beginning."

Wash Your Mouth Out With Soap

These are examples from TV Asahi's "Research Materials on Word Usage," a reference book that divides words into "A" terms, which should be avoided, and "B" terms, with which care should be used. A large section of the book is devoted to the burakumin, a low caste, and words related to this group. The words include:

穢多

eta among the most offensive slurs, once used to refer to the burakumin. It roughly means polluted.

家柄

legara refers to the social position, or rank, of a family, suggesting a class order.

血統

ketto pedigree; another reference to caste order.

士族

shizoku the samurai class; a term that suggests approval of the class system.

特殊部落

tokushu buraku special community; a euphemism for burakumin community.

屠殺場

tosatsujo place for killing animals or slaughterhouse; should be rendered as "shokuniku shorijo," or meat processing facility, which is considered less pejorative.

Other proscribed words:

めくら

mekura blind; instead use "person with seeing disability."

めくら判

mekuraban literally blind seal, which is like the English rubber stamp. Instead use "a seal placed without thinking."

癲癇

tenkan epilepsy; instead use "person of paroxysmal cerebral problems."

気狂い

kichigai crazy; instead use "mentally handicapped."

売れ残る

urenokoru something that remains unsold; a traditional way of referring to an unmarried woman.

ぶす

busu an ugly woman.

はげ

hage bald.

ちび

chibi short.

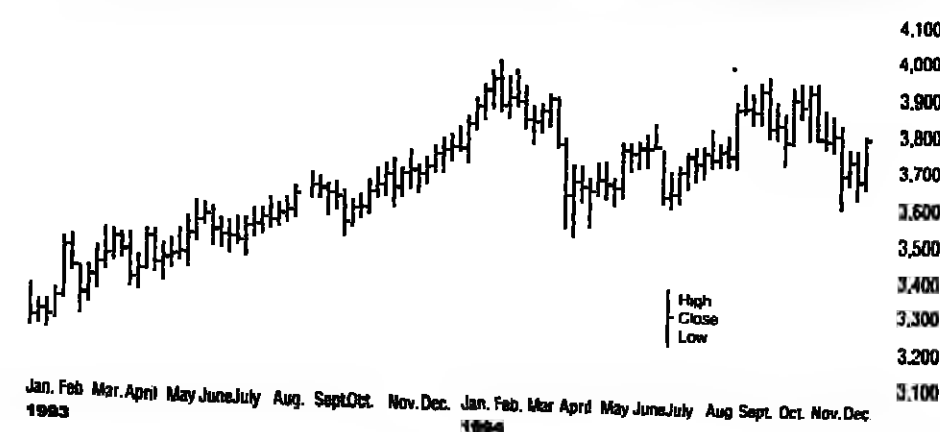
職場の花

shokuba no hana office flower; a condescending way of referring to an attractive female office worker.

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The Stock Markets Last Week

DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE



MARKET DIARY

	NYSE	NASDAQ	AMEX
Advanced	1,855	2,289	432
Declined	880	2,182	380
Unchanged	345	982	163
Issues Traded	3,080	5,453	975
New Highs	41	97	16
New Lows	470	439	148

MARKET INDEXES

	Close	Chg	%Chg	YTD %
D. J. Indust	3,807.19	+116.08	+3.14	+1.41
D. J. Transp	1,416.14	+35.17	+2.55	+19.64
D. J. Util	182.24	+2.90	+1.62	+20.52
S. & P. 500	458.80	+11.83	+2.65	+1.64
S. & P. Indust	454.59	+14.31	+3.17	+0.81
NYSE Comp	250.54	+6.37	+2.61	+3.30
Nasdaq	729.07	+10.02	+1.39	+6.14
Amex	426.23	+5.57	+1.32	+10.67
Russell 2000	241.00	+5.84	+2.48	+6.80
Wilshire 5000	4,504.18	+112.56	+2.56	+3.30
Value Line	272.48	+5.92	+2.22	+7.72

New York Stock Exchange

MOST ACTIVE

Vol. (00)	Last	Chg.
Vodafone	408.67	31 1/2 + 5/8
RJR	281.543	5 1/2 - 1/4
Hansen	230.373	17 1/2 - 3/8
Wal-Mart	220.458	23 + 1 1/2
Genie's	178.923	50 1/4 + 3/8
AT&T	169.544	5 1/8 + 2 1/2
Compaq	168.716	38 1/2 - 1 1/4
Merck	148.821	30 1/4 + 1
Ford	138.658	25 1/2 + 3/8
Sprint	138.027	27 1/4 - 1 1/8
Philips	130.517	58 1/2 + 2 1/4
TelMex	129.620	50 - 1 1/4
Coca-Cola	120.981	5 1/8 + 1 1/8
GM	117.776	37 1/2 + 5/8
IBM	104.482	70 1/2 - 1 1/8

PERCENTAGE GAINERS

Last	Chg.	Pct.
Carnival	20	+17 3/4 b11.1
Transc	16 3/4	+4 1/8 32.7
Wmco	6 1/2	+1 1/8 32.5
Sequa	22 1/2	+4 1/2 24.8
GnData	32 1/2	+5 1/2 22.4
SphereDr	13 1/4	+2 1/2 22.2
Wmco p/a	17 1/2	+3 1/8 21.9
White	20 1/2	+3 1/2 21.0
DavWtr	9 1/2	+1 1/2 21.0
NSGrp	5 1/2	+7/8 20.6
USShoe	18 1/4	+3 19.7
SprRec	22 1/2	+3 1/8 18.8
ProRt	32	+5 18.5
RscMgt	12 1/2	+1 1/8 18.3
Agco p/a	58	+8 1/8 18.1

PERCENTAGE LOSERS

Last	Chg.	Pct.
ParaTr	117 1/2	-5 1/8 50.2
ConPr	10 1/2	-2 1/4 18.2
ColeNil	9 1/4	-1 1/8 16.9
Proter	5 1/2	-1 1/8 16.7
Amre	4 1/2	-3/4 14.6
Grupusa	22 1/2	-3 1/2 14.5
DuPco	8 1/2	-1 1/8 13.8
SCOR	7 1/2	-1 1/8 13.0
Grupusa	21 1/2	-3 1/8 12.6
Amrdata	10 1/2	-1 1/2 12.5
CRIL	4 1/2	-5/8 12.5
Vitro	17 1/2	-2 1/2 12.3
ContAir	8 1/4	-1 1/8 12.0
WasiMin	12	-1 1/2 11.9
FrkQst	27 1/2	-3 1/4 11.9

Nasdaq

MOST ACTIVE

Vol. (00)	Last	Chg.
Intel	461.080	59 1/2 - 3 1/4
Novell	290.131	16 1/2 - 1 1/8
MCI	275.611	18 1/4 - 1
Discos	175.292	33 1/4 + 1 1/4
3Com	159.987	47 1/2 + 5 1/4
Micra	132.527	63 1/2 + 1 1/4
Oracle	128.458	38 1/2 - 3/8
NxtelCm	125.734	16 1/4 + 2
TelCm A	111.720	21 1/2 + 1 1/2
DellCpl	110.414	38 1/2 - 2 1/2

PERCENTAGE GAINERS

Last	Chg.	Pct.
Canstr	19 1/2	+7 57.7
ConodHd	12 1/2	+4 1/2 51.5
Gulp	7 1/2	+2 1/4 45.0
MagSh	6 1/2	+1 1/4 37.7
Winfin	15	+4 36.4
KyMed	7 1/2	+1 1/8 33.3
Teklec	28 1/4	+6 1/4 31.4
Brand	18 1/4	+2 1/2 30.3
FIAlet	18	+4 1/8 29.7
Armech	5	+1 1/2 29.0

PERCENTAGE LOSERS

Last	Chg.	Pct.
Funco	5 1/2	-7 1/2 56.6
IntPolLid	3 1/2	-3 1/2 47.5
Brookstn	6 1/2	-5 1/8 46.1
IntegMus	5 1/2	-4 1/8 41.3
InvTchGp	5 1/2	-2 1/2 31.3
Navgen	4 1/2	-1 1/2 30.6
NABAss	3 1/2	-1 1/2 30.0
Artec	16 1/2	-7 29.5
PeaseOil	5 1/2	-2 1/8 28.3
CleanH	5 1/2	-1 1/2 24.1

American Stock Exchange

MOST ACTIVE

Vol. (00)	Last	Chg.
USBio	121.189	2 1/2 - 3 1/4
VacomVar	57.340	1 1/4 - 1/4
RoyalO	40.307	3 - 1/4
VacomB	39.102	40 1/4 + 2 1/4
EchoBy	22.277	10 1/4 - 1/4

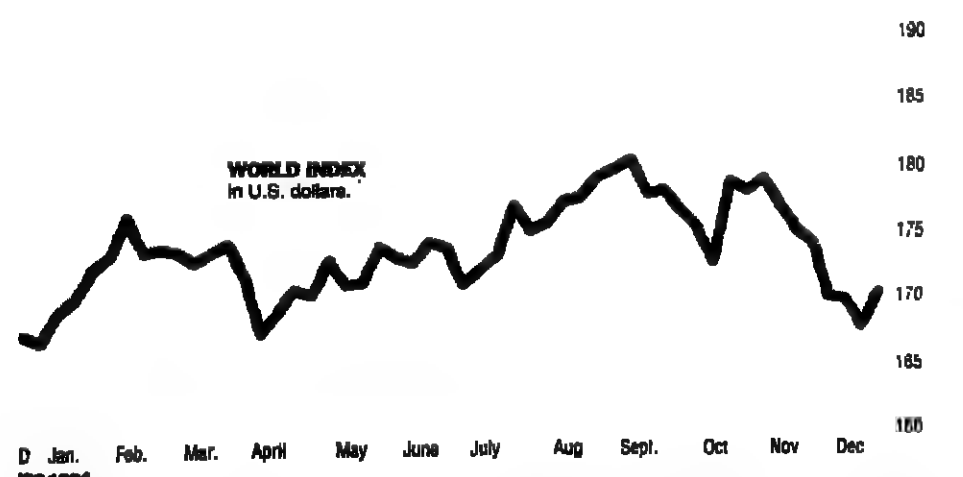
PERCENTAGE GAINERS

Last	Chg.	Pct.
GulfLab	5	+1 1/2 35.6
GnEmp	8 1/2	+1 1/4 25.9
SBMInd	12 1/2	+2 1/2 25.6
Cagle A	45	+9 1/2 25.4
StvGp B	8 1/2	+1 1/2 23.2

PERCENTAGE LOSERS

Last	Chg.	Pct.
USBio	2 1/2	-3 1/4 60.8
Dmark	12	-2 1/2 17.2
SvedE	5 1/2	-7/8 14.0
PWHngP	5 1/2	-3/4 12.2
BearSHK	4 1/2	-1 1/2 11.0

World Stock Markets



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the FT Actunes World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT Indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and NatWest Securities Ltd. In conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries.

PERFORMANCE

Country	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	Dividend Yield	Index	% Chg.	Rate to \$	YTD % Chg.
Australia	171.00	2.7	4	2.5	10	3.93	146.63	-10.3	1.2893	14.3
Austria	176.32	0.4	17	-4.7	18	1.13	144.03	-13.5	1.0625	10.2
Belgium	166.26	0.6	15	2.2	11	4.17	132.39	-8.7	32.29	12.0
Britain	191.29	1.4	12	-6.7	20	4.25	181.45	-11.7	0.6398	5.6
Canada	127.64	1.5	11	-6.0	19	2.69	128.28	-1.5	1.3879	-4.6
Denmark	238.20	-0.6	20	-3.6	17	1.49	199.62	-12.6	6.1615	10.3
Finland	175.66	-1.0	21	42.6	1	0.78	179.31	19.8	4.864	19.1
France	163.76	-1.0	22	-6.9	21	3.08	139.10	-14.6	5.415	9.0
Germany	138.88	2.2	7	-1.0	14	1.83	113.44	-10.4	1.5714	10.5
Hong Kong	327.14	5.6	1	-33.1	24	3.81	325.00	-33.1	7.738	-0.1
Ireland	196.96	0.8	14	6.3	6	3.54	180.45	-2.6	0.6502	9.1
Italy	70.78	1.2	13	3.2	9	1.82	66.48	-1.4	1.636	4.6
Japan	151.86	0.4	18	16.7	3	0.80	96.13	4.7	100.15	11.4
Malaysia	484.19	3.5	3	-21.5	23	1.84	458.43	-25.3	2.5643	5.1
Mexico	1899.84	-5.7	24	-20.4	22	1.42	719.21	-11.3	3.462	-10.3
Netherlands	210.96	1.6	9	6.0	7	3.41	169.32	-4.1	1.7585	10.5
New Zealand	210.96	1.6	9	6.0	7	4.92	59.47	-7.7	1.5645	14.3
Norway	202.33	0.5	16	12.6	5	1.76	188.26	2.7	6.855	9.7
Singapore	364.05	5.1	2	-0.9	13	1.74	245.81	-9.8	1.4652	9.8
South Africa	326.70	2.2	8	22.3	2	2.29	288.13	15.0	4.035	6.3
Spain	137.85	-1.1	23	-1.1	15	4.14	137.79	-8.7	131.945	8.3
Sweden	228.17	0.3	19	16.2	4	1.57	254.59	5.1	7.5373	10.6
Switzerland	160.83	1.5	10	0.5	12	1.84	132.53	-10.1	1.3283	11.8
United States	187.73	2.8	5	-1.1	16	2.94	187.73	-1.1		

COMPOSITE INDEXES

	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank
Europe	165.65	1.0	-2.3	3.15	148.94 -9.8
Europe/Pacific	162.01	0.9	4.4	2.03	122.46 -4.7
World	170.74	1.5	2.1	2.36	144.90 -3.3

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close.
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The Economy

I'm a Bank Spy, So Behave

Some people harbor the erroneous notion that mutual funds sold at banks are federally insured. How many such misguided souls are there? Pick your study. The S.E.C. says 28 percent; the banking industry puts it at 5 percent. Whatever the number, though, the F.D.I.C. wants to be sure banks disclose the risks, but it's being oddly public about its method. Last week it said it had hired a company to visit banks anonymously to make sure they level with customers. Some critics cried entrapment, but there's also the question of the effectiveness of a sting when everyone's gotten a loud warning. Not to worry, the F.D.I.C. said — it will have a "salutary effect" on banks not visited.

Too-Easy Mortgage Money?

Once again, the free-wheeling 80's may be back to haunt bankers. Federal prosecutors say Dime Savings was often less than scrupulous in granting mortgages, lending money to unqualified borrowers simply to generate fees. Last week it turned out that a United States Attorney's office in New Hampshire is investigating Dime for possible fraud. One possibility being looked into is whether Dime wrapped up some of those iffy mortgages into packages to be sold to investors — in other words, passing along the shaky products of its shortsightedness to people who thought they were buying something nice and safe.

Planes, Trains and . . .

ROUTES THAT WILL BE ELIMINATED

TRAIN NAME	CITIES SERVED
Hiawatha	Chicago-Milwaukee
Paré Marquette	Chicago-Grand Rapids, Mich.
The Capitols	San Jose-Sacramento-Roseville

SOME ROUTES WITH SERVICE CUTS

TRAIN NAME	CITIES SERVED
Silver Star	New York-Columbia-Miami/Tampa
Silver Meteor	New York-Charleston-Miami
Crescent	Atlanta-New Orleans

Two bits of news last week had a certain "Gift of the Magi" quality to them (you know: He sells watch for combs; she sells hair for watch chain). After another fatal commuter plane crash — the second in six weeks — Transportation Secretary Peña pushed ahead for stricter safety rules for short-hop carriers. One plane, the ATR-72, has been barred from flying when it's icy, and some travelers glanced about nervously for alternatives . . . but even as this was unfolding, Amtrak — a logical alternative for short trips — said it would cut back sharply on its routes. Faced with an annual deficit of nearly \$200 million, Amtrak will trim more than a fifth of the miles it travels, scrapping some routes entirely, like the New York-Vermont-Montreal run.

Not So Fast, Morgan Stanley

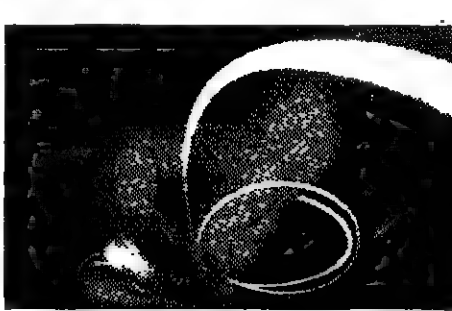
On that Morgan Stanley-S.G. Warburg merger: Never mind. Yes, Morgan would have gotten a valuable foothold in Europe (ditto for Warburg here), but no one, it seemed, asked the folks at Mercury Asset Management, Warburg's independently run fund manager. They knew Morgan wanted Mercury, so they figured there should be some premium, but when they asked, Morgan refused; when no one blinked, the deal collapsed. That left Morgan saying it did not need to search for another partner, but the thinking was that if Warburg wants to go global, it will need an American partner.

Mme. Grès, 89; the Illusion, 91



Yes, of course, the purpose of fashion is to create an illusion, but this is pretty extreme. For the past year, the French designer Alix Grès has been much in evidence — being quoted as saying, for instance, that she was "greatly touched" by colleagues' comments about a retrospective of her work at the Metropolitan Museum. As for Mme. Grès, whose dresses were known for their "Grecian draping," she "doesn't want to be disturbed," her daughter kept saying. And, no, she was not disturbed for quite a while: she had, after all, died over a year ago at the age of 89. Her daughter carefully shielded this fact until the news broke last week, shocking and puzzling former colleagues. Why the secret? "To protect her," her daughter said, and out of respect for Mme. Grès's older sister. Perhaps. Or just a refusal to let an illusion die?

Fiber Optics, Worldwide



Glass fibers at Bell Labs

Just to put the Orange County loss in perspective: with a little over half that \$2 billion, you could lay 17,000 miles of fiber optic cable under the world's oceans. Well, AT&T could anyway. Last week it landed a \$1.2 billion contract to lay such a cable, the world's longest, connecting Britain and Japan (by way of the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea). The 14-month project will take five ships, dragging remote-control-equipped tractors along the sea floor, digging ditches where necessary. The resulting cable will be able to carry 320,000 messages, voice and otherwise.

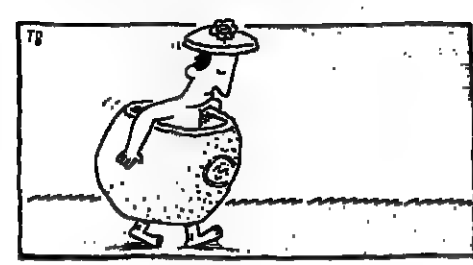
Who's Got the Pentium?

Enough already with the Pentium jokes! (Can't resist? Turn, if you must, to page 11.) The serious point is that it's already mind-boggling for a mortal non-techie to pick the "right" personal computer in that sea of megabytes. So last week, after I.B.M. suspended sales of its PC's that use the flawed Intel Pentium chip, shoppers felt lost. Does the Pentium, as Intel insists, make tiny errors only once in several millennia? Or, as I.B.M. now says, far more often? And how, in the name of Cyberspace, can you possibly make a many-thousand-dollar decision unless you know? Well, first pick a number between 1 and 9.99978885 . . .

If It's Worthless, Who'd Want It?

Companies love to post high earnings — that's their main public report card — but they also like to be generous with top executives. One method to have it both ways: give stock options, which, one could argue, have no value (and no impact on earnings). But options are nice goodies, because recipients can win but can't lose. The F.A.S.B. wanted to change this system — which Senator Carl Levin called a "sham" — and wanted to make companies report options' value as a current expense. But last week, under intense political and corporate pressure, the agency backed down. There was talk of putting the option value in footnotes — but footnotes are, well, footnotes.

Orange County Digs Out



It's the morning after in Orange County — no, make that "mourning." The county was picking up various pieces last week — vowing, first, to just sell that blasting headache known as its investment fund, its loss at \$2 billion and counting. Selling it will end the "and counting" part — the pain will have a precise face. But this gets messy when it gets local: \$2 billion out of a \$7.5 billion fund sounds abstract, bloodless. But if 27 percent has to be cut everywhere, there are screams. Some loud screams came from schools, which insisted that they should get all their money — that, being required to invest in the fund, they're exempt. Then again, a lot of people could call themselves exempt, but the money just isn't there.

Passive Smoke, Active Lawsuit



Smokers regularly sue tobacco companies for damages, so far without success. But last week a Miami judge allowed flight attendants to file a class-action suit — the first involving secondhand smoke. While the E.P.A. says secondhand smoke kills up to 3,000 people a year, the tobacco industry denies it. "Tobacco companies have lied for 40 years about the effects of active smoking," said Stanley Rosenblatt, the flight attendants' lawyer. This case, he said, would show that they're using "precisely the same line of attack" to minimize nonsmokers' risks.

World Markets/Paul Lewis

The Russian Funds Are Coming!

AMERICANS interested in Russia's expanding private economy will soon find it easier to invest there, despite the daunting risks foreigners still face in this now Wild West of equity markets. The World Bank calculated in October that half of Russian industry was in private hands after three rounds of privatization, in which Russian citizens received vouchers exchangeable for company shares. Typically, 30 percent of a privatized company's capital is reserved for employees and the remainder offered to the public. Some mainly British financial institutions, including Robert Fleming and Barings, have already created funds that invest exclusively in Russian shares. But these are not available to most American investors, and no Russian company fund is traded as yet in the United States.

This seems set to change early next year, with both the Templeton Group and Robert Fleming planning to start closed-end Russia funds approved

The New York Times

ADOLPH S. Ochs, Publisher 1896-1967
ARTHUR HAYS SULZBERGER, Publisher 1915-1961
ORVILLE DRYSDALE, Publisher 1961-1963
ARTHUR Ochs SULZBERGER, Publisher 1963-1962

Too Slow on Airline Safety

The Federal Aviation Administration's belated crackdown on commuter airlines and on small planes that may be hazardous in icy weather conditions will upset holiday travelers whose flights have suddenly been canceled. The inconvenience is unwelcome, but five fatal crashes on major and regional airlines this year have heightened public concern about air safety and moved the F.A.A. to put safety first — at last.

The response of the agency to new aviation hazards has too often been sluggish. Following the first of two recent crashes on the American Eagle commuter airline, the agency this month ordered airlines not to fly their ATR turboprop aircraft in icy conditions, or when such conditions are forecast. Just three weeks earlier it had rejected a National Transportation Safety Board recommendation to do just that, ordering instead that pilots take extra precautions.

But the pilots themselves say they are ill prepared. After the grounding order finally came out, pilots complained that they were inadequately trained for winter flying. American Eagle, an affiliate of American Airlines, then suspended its Chicago commuter service and some of its service at Kennedy International in New York City. Last week the F.A.A. also suspended operations by another carrier, Kiwi Airlines, because it was not satisfied that Kiwi's pilot training met Federal standards; by week's end, arrangements had been made to start restoring Kiwi service.

Reflecting public concern about the rigor of airline safety procedures, the agency has announced that it will undertake a safety audit of all U.S. airlines. Meanwhile, it is preparing a requirement that pilots of small airlines take the same extensive training as pilots of big jets. That step is long overdue. The less-rigorous training rules for

operating smaller planes predate the huge expansion of regional and commuter airlines, where small planes are more economical for short and less heavily traveled routes.

Here, too, the agency is following the safety board's lead; intensified training was recommended by the board last month after a broad study of the regionals' operations. Other recommendations by the board — namely that the pilots of small planes be limited to the same hours of flight time as the pilots of big planes and that young pilots be paired with more experienced ones — are to be addressed later.

The board is an independent agency that patrols safety and investigates accidents in all forms of public transportation — ships, trains, planes and whatever. It cannot make anyone do anything, but has mighty powers of persuasion through its meticulous detective work and widely publicized reports on the causes of accidents. The F.A.A. is an arm of the Department of Transportation, with a contradictory assignment to promote civil aviation, including its financial well-being, while also imposing safety regulations, which can be costly.

Airline crashes in the United States this year have taken 257 lives, the most since 1987. Deaths on commuter airlines are the highest since at least 1982. Air travel remains safer than travel by road or rail, but crash reports do not reassure those who fly. Even though financial turbulence in the airline business has forced cost-cutting, there can be no excuse for skimping on safety.

The F.A.A. Administrator, David Hinson, announced two weeks ago that he was creating a new top-level office of safety administrator. Perhaps that will help where the agency has been especially weak, in anticipating safety problems rather than only responding to crises and crashes.

Times Readers Help the Neediest

Advocates for the homeless estimate that more than a third of the people now on the streets of New York — the third that are mentally ill — would not be there if there were adequate programs to assist them. For such people, simply providing a place to live, even a job, would not solve their problems. They need support, encouragement and understanding.

For poor people in New York City suffering from mental and emotional disabilities, there is Project Moving On, which begins with the basics: helping people who have been unable to sustain the simplest social interaction learn to make contact with others. Those skills are essential before they can move on toward self-sufficiency and some form of employment.

Project Moving On is sponsored by the Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service, one of the seven charities supported by The New York Times Neediest Cases Fund.

Every year The Times asks readers to consider the plight of the city's most vulnerable citizens. This year, help is needed more than ever. The nationwide trend toward reforming welfare and downsizing government has created an atmosphere in which it becomes easier to forget that some people, includ-

ing many of the mentally ill, are genuinely unable to help themselves and must depend on the generosity of the community.

At the same time, a strained city has had to cut back services. That leaves private charities, which are themselves stretched thin, to take up the slack. Charitable contributions have dropped off around the country; New York City has not escaped.

There is one heartening exception: Times readers. Bucking the national trend, donors to the Neediest Cases Fund have already contributed \$344,977 more than was collected by this time last year. There have also been 917 more donors this year than at this time last year. This bodes well for the charities that depend on the fund, and on the generosity of Times readers, to continue their work. But the need is still great.

The New York Times deducts no overhead expenses from contributions to the Neediest Cases Fund. All money goes directly to the seven charities, which use the contributions to provide direct services and cash assistance to the poor.

Checks should be payable to The New York Times Neediest Cases Fund and mailed to P.O. Box 5193, General Post Office, New York, N.Y. 10087.

Editorial Notebook

Russian Improvisations

YEKATERINBURG, Russia

The economic and political forces reshaping Russia are visible in raw relief in this muscular industrial city on the eastern slope of the Ural Mountains. The picture shows how far and fast the country has moved since Communism crumbled, and how much distance must still be covered before Russia truly resembles a Western democracy or market economy.

Yekaterinburg, the hometown and political base of Russia's President, Boris Yeltsin, has always been a good barometer of Russian life.

In the early 18th century, Peter the Great came to a land of still forests and unforgiving winters to found Yekaterinburg and build a munitions industry on the Asian frontier. Not quite 200 years later, as civil war convulsed Russia, the Bolsheviks brought deposed Czar Nicholas II and his family here to be executed on a summer night.

Stalin later made the city, rechristened Sverdlovsk, the center of a restricted region of defense plants and prison camps. It remained closed to foreigners until 1991.

Then, last year, the Ford Motor Company came to Russia's third-largest city to make money.

Sipping coffee in the sleek Ford showroom on Cosmonaut Prospekt, Sergei Poda, the executive director, explained that this franchise does not exactly operate by Detroit rules. "We have timber interests," he said. "When we make a big export sale, we take the money and order a shipment of cars."

When the Russian Government imposes new import taxes, the dealership quickly adjusts.

"The Government's job is to make new taxes; our job is to avoid them," Mr. Poda said. So when Moscow offered a tax break for vans that seat 10 or more, Yekaterinburg Ford immediately installed four doll-size seats in the rear of its Explorers. "Three passengers in front, three in back and four in the rear."

Ford sells every Explorer it can get to the showroom — 250 last year, and none sold for less than \$30,000. Dollars only, please. Most sales are cash transactions. The buyers are Russians who made overnight fortunes

From Prison Camps To Ford Explorers

American Consul General in Yekaterinburg, reported that the average blue-collar worker in the region earns less than the equivalent of \$100 a month. Uralsmash, a heavy machinery manufacturer that can no longer count on a steady stream of state orders, has laid off nearly half its 50,000 work force in the last two years.

The new politics, if anything, is less developed. With the collapse of local Communist Party organizations that long governed neighborhood life, the citizens of Yekaterinburg are not looking to their local representative in the national parliament, the Duma, to tackle the great issues of democracy-building in Russia.

Larissa Mishustina, who represents Yekaterinburg in the Duma, was in the city not long ago taking calls from constituents in her sparsely furnished district office.

"Mostly they call about problems in their apartments," she said. "The phone is out, the roof leaks, there is no hot water." Ms. Mishustina said she cannot offer much help. "I might call a local district bureaucrat, but they do not care about helping anyone. There is no government here."

The region's political leader is Edouard Rossel, the chairman of the local parliament. Once a close Communist Party associate of Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Rossel is skirmishing with the Russian leader over the independence of Yekaterinburg's political institutions.

The political reflexes developed over seven decades of Soviet rule do not yield easily. After 84 percent of voters in the area supported a referendum to make the Ural region a republic within Russia, which would have given it more autonomy, Mr. Yeltsin quashed the independence movement and dismissed Mr. Rossel as territorial governor.

"No one objected," Mr. Rossel said. "The mentality of deferring to central authority remains unbroken."

It took Lenin, Stalin and their successors more than 70 years to create the Soviet state. It will take more than one generation to dismantle it. PHILIP TAUBMAN

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Struggling Families Need Jobs, Not Orphanages

To the Editor:

"Orphanages Are No Solution" (editorial, Dec. 12) argues that children are best raised in a family and that orphanages would be an expensive way to care for them. However, you neglect to mention two important ingredients that contribute to successful families.

Careful employment for parents and supportive services help families thrive. When parents are able to fulfill their roles as providers, children are far more likely to be physically, emotionally, socially and educationally better off than children who are not in an economically secure family. And all families benefit from services that will help them function well.

In too many communities across America, particularly African-American communities, adults lack financial resources to support and care for their children.

The average unemployment rate in the third quarter of 1994 for blacks was 11.1 percent, compared with 5.2 percent for white Americans. The poverty rate for blacks is 33.1 percent, compared with 12.2 percent for whites. Jobs for African-American parents, not orphanages, would solve many problems for black children.

Moreover, in addition to employment, families need support services. Our own work with families in the District of Columbia provides life skills, parental skills and child development information to more than 40 low-income families.

While the focus has been on mothers, fathers also need and want support services. A men's group unexpectedly grew out of the project. Children need the support and guidance of two parents.

America's children and their families would be better served by welfare reform legislation that outlines job creation and investment in services for families to enable all their

members to be healthy and productive citizens. ERICA E. TOLLETT

Senior Public Policy Analyst
Nat'l Black Child Development Inst.
Washington, Dec. 12, 1994

When Home Isn't Best

To the Editor:

Ronald A. Feldman's "What You Can't Learn From 'Boys Town'" (Op-Ed, Dec. 13) gives the impression that those who advocate considering orphanages are suggesting that the Government swoop down on young mothers just because they are poor and remove their children from their loving arms in order to raise them in bleak warehouses of Dickensian character. Nothing could be more misleading.

No one disagrees that a caring home is the best place for children. But that situation is far from the reality for too many children today.

The evidence is in newspaper headlines and in the files of the over-

burdened caseworkers of child-welfare agencies. Since the crack epidemic hit the inner cities in the 1980's, there has

been an explosion of children neglected by parents — hungry, left alone or in the care of other children for long periods in vermin-ridden apartments. Many suffer an even worse fate — beaten, burned and even killed by out-of-control mothers or their transient men friends.

Biological parenthood is no guarantee of nurturance, and these unhappy children would be better off in a setting that could provide them with what their natural families lack — a stable environment in which responsive adults provide consistent physical care, emotional satisfaction and intellectual stimulation.

It's a tall order, and no institution can fill the bill so well as good enough parents, but a group residence designed to meet children's needs is realistically possible and is preferable to the hell in which too many young children are consigned today in the name of "family preservation."

RITA KRAMER

New York, Dec. 13, 1994

The writer is a contributing editor of Manhattan Institute's City Journal.

No Single Solution

To the Editor:

We write regarding "Orphanages Are No Solution" (editorial, Dec. 12), first because our agency has been so closely identified with orphanages and "orphan trains" from our early history, and second because this is a problem we care about still.

Though we do not disagree with your position, we both welcome and fear the new attention on the orphanage. Part of the problem is the word "orphanage" itself — romanticized, as you say, with every reference to "Boys Town," and dehumanized with every reference to Dickens. These references and the word itself may have outlived their usefulness — much as "almshouse" or "waif."

In the real world, where half a million children are wards of the state and thousands more will become orphans as their parents die of acquired immune deficiency syndrome, children who cannot be raised by parents need a range of options, with the choice for each to be made based on what is best for him or her. Family home, foster home, group home, extended-family care, dormitory living, independent living — no one is the single answer.

We need to put imagery and politics aside and recognize what liberals and conservatives can agree on: Not every parent can provide for a child, and government must step in when that child is endangered. But just as abuse is not indigenous to one type of child care, so not every child succeeds in a family and not every group home is a warehouse.

All children need permanency, love, education and to be prepared for a productive adulthood. For good or ill, there is no best way to get there.

NICHOLAS SCOPETTA
PHILIP COLTOFF
New York, Dec. 12, 1994

The writers are, respectively, chairman and executive director, Children's Aid Society.

Trauma of Separation

To the Editor:

With respect to the fate of children of young single mothers on welfare, legislators should consider the Hampstead Nurseries in London.

Between 1940 and 1945, 80 children between 10 days and 10 years old, made homeless by reasons of war, were placed in three residential nurseries supervised by the child psychologist Anna Freud and by my grandmother Dorothy Burlingham.

After 56 months of continuous observation, the first and foremost conclusion the women reached was that, for a child, the horror of war pales beside the horror of separation from mother. They discovered that the war itself was only "a precipitating and aggravating agent." From this perspective, enlightened day care would be preferable to orphanages.

MICHAEL J. BURLINGHAM
New York, Dec. 12, 1994

Carbide Got Off Easy in Bhopal Disaster

To the Editor:

In "10 Years After the Gas, No End to Tears" (The Week in Review, Dec. 11), you tell how "impoverished Indians" died in the shadow of a "sophisticated" Union Carbide Company plant. The Bhopal plant, you state, "was run entirely by an Indian subsidiary," and "Indian officials had not prevented many of the victims from moving too close to the plant." You report that Union Carbide officials were "denied access to the plant" and that the chemical giant has "never been able to argue its case in an Indian court." And you write of Union Carbide's "agreeing" to pay the Indian Government \$470 million in compensation and contributing \$40 million to build a hospital and medical research center.

The compensation Union Carbide "agreed" to was nowhere near the \$3 billion the Indian Government

filed suit for on Sept. 8, 1986. Union Carbide filed a counterpetition on Nov. 17, 1986, claiming the Indian Government was responsible for the tragedy. It wasn't until Feb. 14, 1989, that the \$470 million figure was reached and only when India's Supreme Court agreed to quash Carbide's civil and criminal liabilities.

You also do not mention the conclusion reached Dec. 2 by the Permanent People's Tribunal on Industrial Hazards and Human Rights (reported in India Abroad) that the chairman of Union Carbide should be extradited to stand trial for homicide charges in India.

The tribunal also pointed out, "far better safety standards" in Union Carbide's West Virginia plant and accused the Indian Government of "frantically trying to shield the guilty."

MICHAEL A. ZEZINDA JR.
New York, Dec. 12, 1994

Anthropologists Talked Human Rights Too

To the Editor:

"A Trans-Narrating, Ethnographic Good Time Was Had by All" (The Week in Review, Dec. 11), on the anthropology convention, was amusing, partly deserved. However, human rights were the focal issue, with more than 35 sessions and Coretta Scott King and Spelman College's Johnnetta Cole as guest speakers.

Anthropologists witness through fieldwork the risks of degradation or extermination emanating from the policies and activities of the powerful around the world. You highlight arcane topics, compared with such urgent claims, which deserve serious treatment by anthropologists, researchers, policy makers and the media.

JAMES PEACOCK
President, American Anthropological Association
Arlington, Va., Dec. 14, 1994

Four Years for House?

To the Editor:

Congress will consider a constitutional amendment limiting the period for which its members may serve, probably to 12 years. Why not an increase in the term of members of the House of Representatives to four years?

House members would welcome election for four years, rather than having to face voters every two. Even those confident of re-election would welcome the reduction in the need to campaign and raise funds.

I believe there would be little opposition by the electorate. Representatives can be expected to devote more time to the public's business.

The President's party virtually always suffers losses in midterm elections, a problem that would be diminished if the term of members of the House coincided with that of the President.

PETER H. KASKELL
New York, Dec. 12, 1994

No, the F.D.I.C. Hasn't Decided to Conduct a Sting Operation

To the Editor:

Your article about the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's efforts to determine if inaccurate or misleading sales practices are being used by banks that sell mutual funds (Business Day, Dec. 14) gives the impression that the F.D.I.C. program is a clandestine sting operation designed to catch criminals in the act. This is not the case.

The program is not testing bankers for compliance with a law, not spying on suspected criminals and not like using testers for lending discrimination. It will be an objective test of whether potential investors are getting meaningful disclosures and will help banks see shortcomings in their sales programs.

We are arranging for trained researchers to call and visit banks and thrifts that sell mutual funds, annuities and other nondeposit investment products. These private re-

searchers will pose as typical consumers and ask typical questions about the products. Our goal is to reconcile reports that sales personnel at some institutions are not accurately explaining to potential investors which banking products are F.D.I.C.-insured and which are not.

There will be no "trick questions" designed to entrap bank employees. Our survey will ask simple, essential questions like "Is this mutual fund F.D.I.C. insured?" There are only three possible answers: "No" (the correct answer), "Yes" (incorrect) or "Maybe" (incorrect).

F.D.I.C. examiners already check the printed materials banks hand

out, but this approach cannot check on key aspects of the sales pitch that are not in writing.

You indicate that the banking industry and other banking and securities regulators strongly object to the program. But in the months the F.D.I.C. has been discussing its plans with other regulators, we have encountered no such opposition and, in some cases, have received offers of assistance.

ALAN J. WHITNEY
Director, Office of Corporate Communications, F.D.I.C.
Washington, Dec. 15, 1994

Gulf War Syndrome

To the Editor:

Your Dec. 14 news article on illnesses suffered by veterans of the Persian Gulf war did not mention one possible cause: the experimental drugs that were given to United States troops.

According to the Arms Control Research Center, antidotes for biological or nerve-gas weapons, as well as a botulinum vaccine, which were not approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration, were administered to most of the troops in the combat zone without their informed consent.

SUZY KANE
Bedford Hills, N.Y., Dec. 14, 1994

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The Lonely Holdout

When Ramon Cortines came to New York as the city's Schools Chancellor in the summer of 1993, the school system was in its usual state — that is, everything was in turmoil.

A quiet man, the new Chancellor was entering a cacophonous and brutal environment, a zone of almost unrestrained hostility that seemed certain to devour him in short order. The previous Chancellor had been ousted and there was little agreement on who should succeed him. Mr. Cortines was hired on a 4-to-3 vote by a Board of Education that was bitterly divided politically and ideologically. In keeping with the farcical nature of New York's approach to public education, the loudest arguments were not about academic achievement, but whether condoms should be distributed in schools and whether grade schoolers should be reading books like "Heather Has Two Mommies."

"It was a terrible time," said the Board of Education president, Carol Gresser. "We all hated each other." Enter the asbestos crisis. As the first semester of the Chancellor's first term was about to get under way, it became clear that a major attempt to resolve an asbestos problem in the schools had failed. A panic was developing. The new Chancellor would not even be able to start the school year on time. Case-hardened New Yorkers chuckled and predicted that before long the Chancellor would be begging to go back home.

But something peculiar happened on Ramon Cortines's road to certain failure in the New York City school system. He refused to cooperate in his own downfall. Quietly, doggedly, in some ways inexplicably, he kept making things better.

From the beginning, Mr. Cortines understood that the school system had to be stabilized, that no educational improvements could be realized if the constant fighting were allowed to continue. Mr. Cortines settled the asbestos crisis and then set about defusing tensions. Cynics scoffed and labeled the task impossible. Mr. Cortines ended up doing it so well there is no longer anyone anywhere who is fighting him, except for Mayor Giuliani, who is desperate to get his hands on the Board of Education's money.

The good will generated by the Chancellor in little more than a year is incredible — for New York, almost mystical. Despite the Mayor's loud and unrelenting enmity, there is hardly another soul who wants this low-keyed and courtly fellow to leave town. He has the support of parents and teachers, Democrats and Republicans, Harlemites and Staten Islanders, cab drivers, corporate

Everyone but Giuliani is rooting for the Schools Chancellor.

heads and bodega owners. There hasn't been such unanimity of opinion about an out-of-towner since the Pope was here.

What is it that everybody else sees in Mr. Cortines that the Mayor — befogged by budget problems and an insatiable desire to control all aspects of municipal government — has missed entirely?

The short answer is Mr. Cortines's absolute commitment to excellence in education. Mr. Cortines was appalled at what he found in classrooms across the city. Many schools, he said, were just "playing school." Students were sitting at their desks and all was quiet, but not a blessed thing was being learned. He visited one classroom and was astonished to find there were no books anywhere. He asked the teacher, "Where are the schoolbooks?" She replied that she didn't believe in schoolbooks.

In other schools he found that youngsters were taking math and science courses that were worthless. He called them "bonehead" courses. The Chancellor also learned, to his dismay, that New York did not even have formal curriculum guidelines establishing what each student should know in each subject area in each grade. He had never before seen a school system without them.

Working 15- and 16-hour days, Mr. Cortines has begun turning this madness around. He has developed a set of curriculum guidelines and they are already being field-tested. He has instituted a requirement that all high school students take at least three years of tough Regents-level math and science courses. He has cracked down on about 100 so-called "low performing" schools.

Because of Mr. Cortines, there is a healthy new working relationship between the Chancellor and the Board of Education, and there is a feeling of optimism and confidence throughout the system.

That Mayor Giuliani is trying to sabotage this effort is incomprehensible, but apparently true.

A Leaner New York



By Felix G. Rohatyn

New York City is heading for its most dangerous fiscal problems in nearly 30 years. And while this time there is no threat of bankruptcy, the size of the present and future budget gaps — and some new aggravating factors — make it clear that the city needs to take prompt and fundamental measures to put its finances in order. It could do worse than to look at the ways it resolved its desperate plight of the mid-1970s.

When he took office nearly a year ago, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani inherited a perilous situation. The local economy had never fully recovered from the recession that followed the 1987 stock market crash, nor had successive administrations dealt with the city's structural deficit — the chronic imbalance between revenues and recurring expenses — in a serious fashion.

Mr. Giuliani had to deal immediately with a deficit of \$2.3 billion for the fiscal year that began last July, while correctly insisting that the city's exorbitant tax burden must be reduced. He proposed a variety of spending cuts and new or increased fees, along with a work-force reduction in which 15,000 people would take voluntary buyouts financed by surplus funds of the Municipal Assistance Corporation.

But fiscal monitors warned of even larger shortfalls — warnings painfully borne out in this month's struggle between the Mayor and City Council over how to close a billion-dollar gap in the current budget. No matter who wins that battle, the gap may still not be securely closed; worse, the city faces deficits that could reach \$2 billion in the next fiscal year and rise in later years. And two recent developments make it likely that the city will face still greater pressure: the dramatic decline in earnings in the financial service industry, and the change of governors in Albany.

The Wall Street downturn, which is likely to continue, will mean smaller than expected revenues in business

Felix G. Rohatyn, a senior partner at Lazard Freres, investment bankers, was chairman of the Municipal Assistance Corporation from 1975-83.

and income taxes. It will slow Christmas business in the city. And it will mean smaller tax collections for the state, widening Albany's own severe budget gap.

The election of George E. Pataki is likely to lead to other problems for the city. Even if the Governor-elect and the Mayor were best friends, their policy goals would still be in stark contradiction. Mr. Pataki is committed to closing a \$4 billion deficit while simultaneously initiating a 25 percent income tax cut, which would cost \$5.5 billion over four years; both these commitments are likely to mean state-aid cutbacks that will increase the city's deficit by several hundred million dollars a year. The Mayor, for his part, is counting on Albany and Medicaid for about \$600 million in Westside assistance over the next three years. He is unlikely to see even part of it.

Six steps to fiscal sanity.



All of this may well require cuts beyond what the city can safely endure in a short time. The Mayor's current plans call for a reduction of 22,000 employees this year, or 10 percent of the work force. Dealing with the new gaps might require a reduction of 35,000 to 40,000 to bring the budget into structural balance. The Mayor is talking about deep cuts in next year's Medicaid and welfare budgets. Reductions of that magnitude (or the additional taxes needed to avoid them) would very likely cause permanent damage to the city's social and economic fabric if imposed too quickly.

How to avoid such a painful reckon-

ing? The Mayor and the Governor-elect should consider an approach similar to what worked in even more difficult conditions in 1975.

At the time, the city needed to close a gap of nearly 10 percent of its budget (as against 3 percent today) and was effectively shut out of the credit markets. The city, the state and the municipal unions agreed on a four-year plan, to be carried out by the Mayor with the oversight of the state-appointed Emergency Financial Control Board. It was to be financed by the Municipal Assistance Corporation, using bonds backed by the city's sales tax.

The plan was comprehensive. It called for a balanced budget at the end of four years. In that time the work force was to be reduced by 40,000 people (beyond 20,000 layoffs that had occurred earlier) under a program of attrition and work-rule changes; the city agreed to lay no one off as long as the unions provided at least 6 percent attrition each year. Wage increases were deferred until the city's budget was balanced. Certain city functions were taken over and paid for by the state.

The plan was successful. The budget was balanced in four years, the city was back in the bond market in six years, and all deferred wages were repaid in 1981. And the restructuring of the municipal debt and the creation of M.A.C. as a lender of last resort meant that the city would always have access to credit — a near-ironclad guarantee against bankruptcy.

Today, as in 1975, righting the structural imbalance between revenue and spending requires much greater cutbacks than can be absorbed in one year. Yet such a plan is imperative if the city is to be spared the annual agony of cutting again and again. Here are six elements of such a plan:

• Just as the state took over certain city functions in 1975, it should begin to take over Medicaid for every local government — a move that would benefit not only the city but all the upstate counties that voted for Mr. Pataki. Given the state's budget problems, such a move would be only nominal at first, but it would point the way to significant relief in the future.

• If the unions guarantee an attri-

tion rate of at least 4 percent a year, that would reduce the size of the work force by 32,000 people over four years. While hardly painless, such a reduction should not result in layoffs: 4 percent a year is about half the turnover rate for city employees.

• Wage increases should be deferred until the budget is in balance.

• Any such plan should include some gradual reduction in city taxes to encourage businesses and taxpayers to remain while keeping quality-of-life services — law enforcement, education, sanitation — at an acceptable level.

• The city might have to eliminate certain functions entirely. As the Mayor suggested during his campaign, the hospital system might have to be privatized; provisions would have to be made for heavy initial costs and employee relocation.

• New sources of revenue need to be explored. One politically difficult measure would be to impose tolls on the East River bridges and use the proceeds to finance all transportation-related maintenance costs in the city budget.

The 1975 agreement was termed a social contract. A similar contract is needed now. It must involve the unions and the business community. It could be partly paid for by refinancing the M.A.C. bonds and extending their maturities — something that could be considered only under a plan that guaranteed successful execution. Although the credit-rating agencies are leery of such financing, a plan that leads to structural balance would actually improve the city's credit and should get the agencies' blessing.

The Mayor and the Governor-elect have conflicting agendas. But they have an overriding interest: the economic and social health of New York City and New York State. One cannot flourish without the other. For humanitarian reasons as much as economic ones, the two men need to begin work now on a long-term plan for a restructured city government and permanent fiscal balance.

The Last Taboo

Joycelyn Elders took a dive so that masturbation might live.

The cashiered Surgeon General was fated for a fall in Washington, where black women who speak their minds are now routinely vilified with racial epithets spun off from that popular coinage of the Reagan era, "welfare queen." As Lani Guinier was the "quota queen," so, inevitably, Dr. Elders, a proselytizer for preventive measures in an age of rampant teen-age pregnancy and AIDS, was the "condom queen."

Though Bill Clinton said he did not fire her for political reasons, of course he did. And that was the best reason for firing an official who went out of her way to say often-sensible things in mostly inexact and incendiary language. At this year's pre-election rally of the Christian Coalition, Dr. Elders was bashed far more frequently from the podium than the President or his wife. She was a gonorrhea long before she was accused of saying that masturbation should be taught in the nation's schools.

That was not, of course, what she was saying in her clumsily improvised answer to a question at a U.N. conference. Looking for any pretext to get rid of Dr. Elders, Mr. Clinton deliberately misconstrued her meaning; she called for including masturbation information, not instruction, in sex education. Surely the President knows that anyone who needs masturbation lessons is unlikely to meet the minimal intellectual requirements for school attendance anyway.

Even so, Dr. Elders did not fall on the sword in vain. Her final controversy as Surgeon General actually achieved its intended effect, which was to yank a ludicrously taboo subject completely out of the closet. In

Dr. Elders says the dreaded M-word.

"Sex in America," the book recounting this year's definitive survey of American sexual habits, masturbation is described as one of the country's most popular activities but also one of its least discussed, "most problematic" and "most poorly studied." No more.

Last weekend "Saturday Night Live" finally found its first funny opening sketch of the season with Ellen Cleghorne's impersonation of the Surgeon General: every other late-night comic has kicked in since. This can only be to the good. The more people talk about masturbation, the more fears can be dispelled among those young people who still worry that the act turns one into "a confirmed and degraded idiot" — to quote Sylvester Graham, inventor of the graham cracker, from his popular 1834 book, "A Lecture to a Young Man."

Why is masturbation still a no-no in polite conversation when even Jeffrey Dahmer's sex life is not? The "Sex in America" experts blame guilt and, evoking the tragicomic memory of poor Pee-wee Herman, "masturbation's legacy and image." But not even the guilty "alter their behavior," according to the statistics.

Thanks to Dr. Elders, perhaps the legacy and image of masturbation can finally be elevated so that its legion of practitioners can leave that guilt behind. And education might play a larger role than the former Surgeon General imagined.

A cultural survey of masturbation could span from William Blake's "Visions of the Daughters of Albion" of 1793 to the Emmy-winning "Seinfeld" episode on the subject (in which, typically, the actual word is never mentioned) of 1992. In between are classic passages from D. H. Lawrence's "Pornography and Obscenity," Woody Allen's "Annie Hall" and the "Ulysses" of the canon, Philip Roth's "Portnoy's Complaint."

No writer spoke more cogently on the topic, though, than Mark Twain, who delivered an address on the "Science of Onanism" in 1879. It's typical of masturbation's shadowy existence in American culture that Twain delivered the speech abroad and that it has been only sporadically in print since.

"Of all the various kinds of sexual intercourse this has the least to recommend it," Twain said. "As an amusement it is too fleeting. As an occupation it is too wearing. As a public exhibition there is no money in it. It is unsuited to the drawing room."

Perhaps these drawbacks are still troublesome today, but they are nothing next to such alternatives as unwanted babies or disease. That was the only point Joycelyn Elders was trying to make, and, precisely because it cost her her job, this time it may finally get through.

The Millennium Is Nigh. Very Nigh.

By Wick Allison

M LARCHMONT, N.Y. Maybe we should deck the halls with a few more boughs of holly. From the best evidence, it appears that Jesus Christ was born in 6 B.C. If a Roman monk hadn't made a simple miscalculation 1,400 years ago, the world would be celebrating the 2,000th Christmas next Sunday. And the Sunday after that, we'd be celebrating New Year's Day 2000 — the first day of the third millennium.

How did the mistake happen in the first place? It started with an attempt to fix the date not of Christmas but of Easter, the holiest and most ancient day of the Christian calendar.

Easter, like Passover, is based on a calculation involving the lunar and solar calendars. The calculation can be done any number of ways, and by the sixth century A.D., differences abounded. Finally, in 525, Pope John I commissioned a well-regarded scholar, the monk Dionysius Exiguus, to develop a system that everyone could agree on.

Wick Allison, former publisher of National Review, is author of "That's in the Bible?," a study guide for adults.

Dionysius was an expert not only in canon law but in astronomy and mathematics, and he had no trouble coming up with new tables for Easter; the hard part was getting bishops to adopt them. It may have been to popularize his system that he hit on another bright idea: renumbering the years to focus on the birth of Christ.

At the time, most of Europe was still operating under Emperor Diocletian's version of the old Roman calendar, which dated the years "ab urbe condita" (from the founding of the city). Diocletian had been one of the church's fiercest persecutors, argued the monk, so why rely on him for its system of dating? And which was more important — the founding of a collapsed empire or the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, Savior of the world?

Dionysius designated the first year after Christ's birth as anno Domini (year of our Lord) 1. Jesus' birth, then, took place late in the year before that: not 0, but 1 B.C.

Dionysius's theology may have been on the mark, but his chronology wasn't. Somehow he decided to place Jesus' birth in the 753d year of the old Roman calendar. Christian scholars have long questioned this reckoning, and for good reason: Herod the Great, King of Judea, died in the 750th year after Rome was founded.

As we know from the Gospels of both Matthew and Luke, Jesus was born in Herod's reign. So Dionysius was at

least three years off — and the evidence tilts more strongly to five.

In Matthew's account, Herod interrogates the Magi who come to visit Jesus, and after establishing the date of the child's birth, he orders the killing of all the male children of Bethlehem aged 2 and under. Joseph is warned by an angel to flee to Egypt; he returns with the Holy Family only after Herod dies.

Contrary to conventional piety

Jesus was probably born in 6 B.C. You do the math.

(and millions of crèches), the Magi were not at the manger on Christmas night — or even Epiphany (Jan. 6), when their arrival is celebrated. Matthew indicates that their journey took months, not days. By the time they arrived and lingered in Jerusalem, consulted with Herod and moved on to Bethlehem to worship the child, more time would have passed. Jesus would no longer have been a newborn. By the time the Holy Family fled to Egypt, lived there, then returned at Herod's

death in 4 B.C., He would have been as old as a year or two. That places his birth before 5 B.C.

Luke doesn't mention the Magi. His only reference to a historical date is a census that was taken "while Quirinius was governor of Syria." That can't be right, since Quirinius became legate in Syria in A.D. 6 — by which time Herod had been dead for 10 years. But Roman records tell us a Quirinius was legate in Syria from 6 to 4 B.C. Did Luke — writing some 70 years after the event — get the name wrong? (It's not unusual, even in the Gospels.) Placing the birth before 5 B.C., yet during the time of Quirinius, would mean Jesus was born in 6 B.C.

The Magi, of course, were following a star. Of the many attempts that have been made to identify it, one is especially intriguing: Chinese astronomers recorded what must have been a supernova in the early spring of 5 B.C. If, as Matthew says, the Magi began their journey after Jesus was born, this would suggest a birth date in the winter of 6-5 B.C. (around, say, Christmas?).

Every Christmas is special, and the Christmas message is timeless whether one accepts the Gospels literally or figuratively. But it may add a glow to a cold, crisp night in December 1994 to know that this is the 2,000th Christmas to warm the human heart.

A Pair of Saints Who Refuse To Stay Dead

By VICKI GOLDBERG

Elvis was a hip replacement, a shaky premise, a grained vault. He put the male pelvis right where belly dancers and strippers had already put the female's: up front in the spotlight. This made some people nervous. What's more, he was vulgar, his hair was full of goo, he had a pink stripe on his black pants, and his music borrowed freely from black gospel, blues, and rhythm and blues. Numerous disk jockeys burned stacks of his records. Ministers preached against him. Police and district attorneys held him responsible for juvenile delinquency. Pravda gleefully declared him proof of Western decadence, and many Americans agreed. He just wanted to play house in the Heartbreak Hotel. He just wanted you to love him tender.

Marilyn was the promise of pneumatic bliss and the power to cloud men's minds. She was the blondest woman in America, a bombshell made of custard, the ecstatic answer to your mother's injunction to have a good time, dear. She had a smile as bright as cloudless skies while inside she rained tears, but at the moment that the Pill became available she let women know that sex was more fun than the married women's instruction manuals let on, thereby helping prepare the ground for sexual revolution. Baseball greats and playwrights married her; men in high office bedded her. She just wanted someone to love her true.

The curator, Wendy McDaris, who lives in Elvis's hometown, Memphis, has had the clever idea of examining the impact of these two on the arts in "Elvis + Marilyn: 2 x Immortal" at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston (through Jan. 8, then traveling to institutions in nine cities, including the New York Historical Society next October) with a well-illustrated and sometimes thoughtful catalogue from Rizzoli. This very large show includes the work of 107 artists, among them Robert Arneson, Joseph Cornell, Keith Haring and Claes Oldenburg.

Rather arbitrarily divided into images of cultural, heroic, mythic and religious significance, it suffers from the usual problem of theme shows: some work is here simply because it is about the title. But many pieces are smart and amusing, and some are important. In Jeff Bourgeois's "You Are the One," Marilyn, in low resolution, tantalizingly, maddeningly blows a kiss over and over on tiny monitors while a scratchy male voice sings. Ralph Burns's report on pilgrims to Graceland includes an amazing photograph of a fat woman in a bedroom contemplating an Elvis mannequin stiffly at rest on the bedspread. Ashley Bickerton's "Seascape: Floating Costume to Drift for

Eternity" — a strapped up trunk, equipped to float and enclosing a jeweled white Elvis jump suit — is a ghostly high-tech message in a bottle.

The strongest section is on religion, especially the Elvis cult. Elvis considered himself a healer, and people with sick children trooped to his concerts as if to Lourdes — and that was before he died. Joanne Stephens's "Homage to Elvis" enshrines a jeweled and crowned singer in a golden splendor of musical putti atop a gutted television set, within which a diorama shows Elvis belting it out for an attentive group of animals. Marilyn has an altar, too. Mark Solomon Dennis serves up Elvis's severed head on a platter with some salmon. Conrad Atkinson and Alexander Guy both produce crucified Elvis suits.

Our saints today, such as they are, survive a certain amount of torture at the hands of cruel lovers, an inquisitorial public and private demons. Then, lacking executioners, they have to finish the job themselves with neglect or overdoses or whatever. Performers and artists are good candidates to become cult figures, musicians especially, for they promise transcendence, initiating their followers into ecstatic mysteries where reason cannot reach.

You might overdose on Elvis and Marilyn in the midst of the I.C.A. extravaganza, but you will certainly be convinced that artists believe, with the rest of us, that these two are cultural icons. Marilyn and Elvis are as undead as vampires and return more often, not being afraid of sunlight. Their images are everywhere and have been from the moments they died. A photograph of Elvis in his coffin was said to be the first picture of a dead celebrity on a front page; it sold six million copies of *The National Enquirer*.

Yet Elvis has refused to be still, he is sighted more often than endangered species. Christopher Walken, in "Him," a play now at the Public Theater, proposes that Elvis did not die but went into hiding disguised as a waitress. Marilyn, theatrical in her lifetime, was after her death, also turned into theater in Arthur Miller's "After the Fall." Madonna resurrected her via the sincerest form of flattery in music videos and magazine spreads. Elvis crossed the country on a postage stamp; Marilyn became one, too, but only in St. Vincent, in the West Indies.

It is a safe bet that very few artists make the yearly pilgrimage to Memphis to lay a rose on Elvis's grave and take home a packet of Graceland earth. The myriad images of Elvis and Marilyn that spangle the art-world skies are obviously cultural commentary. Whereas the great painters of altarpieces in the past were not doubt fired by both religious and artistic zeal, con-



"Earth Angel," by Jerry Kearns — Elvis and Marilyn released something pent up in their audiences.

temporary artists, debonair in their unbelief, treat the newer icons as sociology. The dependence on popular figures and media presentations of them is an admonition to pay attention to the modern world.

But the art world, though its eyes are glued to the television screen and its fingers count the nation's pulse, is actually thinking of something else all the while: itself. This show is actually about three icons: Elvis, Marilyn and Andy. There are any number of riffs on Warhol's Elvis and Warhol's Marilyn, paintings that are stars themselves. (Warhol's "Shot Red Marilyn" broke an auction record in 1989 by fetching more than \$4 million and then brought \$3.6 million this fall. Like Marilyn, the picture is worth more because it was "murdered" and lived on; someone shot it in Warhol's studio, and he repaired the bullet hole.)

Richard Pettibone repeats part of a Warhol Elvis. Jerry Kearns does it again, adding familiar Vietnam images. Frank Xerox,

Janice E. Williams and Raymond Saunders rework Warhol's Marilyn, Seymour Howard paints abstractions over Andy's Elvis and his Marilyn. Peter Halley paints a two-panel abstraction of squares and lines, brightly colored on the left, gray on the right, and calls it "Double Elvis" after Warhol's painting of Elvis with a gun. Halley says, rather coyly, that he liked the idea of cloning.

Then Deborah Kass does Barbra Streisand the way Warhol did Elvis: two double portraits of Yentl side by side, one colored, one not. Barbra is a crasher at this party of Elvis and Marilyn look-alikes; she got in solely by looking like a Warhol. These are jokes, winks, knowing references for people in the know. As comments on the media culture, they refer to art as a mass medium on a level art seldom achieves, though Warhol just may have. The pictures here are really art appreciation under the guise of social critique.

Post-modernism's appropriation of newspaper, film and comic-strip imagery, and

acknowledgment that life today lodges in representation, is, in a way, a last gasp of a 19th-century Realists' concentration on contemporary life. Rarely have artists borrowed from art so slavishly as they do now, a practice explained as a bow to the end of originality.

But borrowing Warhol's silk-screens of commercially distributed photographs — the experience at second hand in the photograph, at third in Warhol, at fourth in the newest redaction — points up the inability of art to forge our cultural symbols. For centuries, artists provided forms for society's heroes (or for the heroes governments wanted society to have): statues of Greek athletes or the Marcus Aurelius in Rome; Michelangelo's David, which was understood by the Florentines to represent civic freedom. Photography, film, newsreels and television changed that, and artists now are reduced to playing with images already established in public fantasies stoked by forces beyond the limits of art.

FILM

Girls, Boys and Oscars

This year turned out to be a particularly brutal one for supporting actor candidates.

By JANET MASLIN

As Hollywood shifts into year-end awards mode, the usual glaring inequity reappears. Strong candidates in the best actress category are elusive, to put it mildly, while prize-worthy male actors are hard to miss. This raw deal doesn't work to anyone's advantage. While leading actresses languish or play thankless roles, men continue to tough it out in the most competitive of all movie awards categories: best supporting actor.

This year turned out to be a particularly brutal one for supporting actor candidates and once again we see why these secondary roles boast a disproportionate share of talent. For one thing, good supporting roles are easier to write than leading ones, because they needn't be fully rounded or carry a story. A supporting character, like Bruce Willis's Butch in "Pulp Fiction," can display his flashiest attributes without bothering to explain his quiet side.

And because supporting characters serve as landmarks in someone else's narrative, they have well-defined dramatic impact. Good supporting roles, which are so much more often developed for men, command attention for their own merits and for placing leading characters in sharp relief, whether as moral opposites or mere comic sidekicks. Hey, even Tom Arnold ("True Lies") did a nice job this year.

Film makers often seem drawn to the secondary figure who serves a vital purpose. In "Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle," for instance, Campbell Scott gives a sweetly gallant performance as Robert Benchley, who suggests great lost opportunities for Dorothy Parker, the film's acerbic heroine. In taking the brittle edge off Jennifer Jason Leigh's dazzling, self-lacerating character — one of the year's rare performances



Samuel L. Jackson

worthy of a best actress prize, incidentally — his Benchley humanizes the whole film.

Martin Landau has a similar effect on "Ed Wood," turning the title character (played by Johnny Depp) from an angora-loving weirdo into a surrogate son. Mr. Landau's hilariously crotchety Bela Lugosi is as poignant as he is scabrously funny. And he crystallizes the obvious affection felt by the director, Tim Burton, for the film's Z-movie world. This Lugosi is the heart of the film.

Samuel L. Jackson's blisteringly fine performance as Jules in "Pulp Fiction" is no less crucial. As the film's most interesting principled character, Jules grapples with moral questions that his partner, Vincent Vega (John Travolta), can barely understand. Mr. Jackson does this with pure, fiery intelligence, making Jules the film's startlingly serious figure, even if Vincent's is the showier role.

Mr. Jackson manages to give the standout performance in a film in which every supporting actor deserves special attention. As if that abundance didn't overcrowd the category, "Quiz Show" is also rich in supporting roles. Paul Scofield's beautifully nuanced Mark Van Doren commands notice, but John Turturro's unruly Herbert Stempel acts out the fury that this fine, understated

ed film is all about. If its natural aristocrat outshines its working stiff at awards time, that proves the story's point.

There's more: Chazz Palminteri does a terrific comic turn, capturing the very essence of Woody Allen's comedy "Bullets Over Broadway." In "The Shawshank Redemption," Morgan Freeman makes his jailhouse narrator the bedrock of the tale. In "Forrest Gump," Mykelti Williamson turns Forrest's Army buddy Bubba into an unexpectedly funny, soothing figure. And Dennis Quaid's Doc Holliday is the strongest part of "Wyatt Earp."

By contrast, the lineup of 1994 best actress candidates is grim. At this writing, "Little Women," "Death and the Maiden" and "Camilla" still hold some promise (for Susan Sarandon, solid in "The Client" and long overdue for an award, along with Winona Ryder, Sigourney Weaver and the late Jessica Tandy). But the rest of the field looks ridiculously thin. "Nell" is a disappointingly trite showcase for Jodie Foster's impressive technique. From "I Love Trouble" to "The River Wild," big female stars had few decent roles this year.

Meryl Streep was fine in "The River Wild," but much of what she had to do was look good in shirts and sweat a villain with an oar. The role would have been just as suitable for Sharon Stone, who herself wasted time in "The Specialist," an especially crude and witless thriller. Jessica Lange shone in "Blue Sky," Tony Richardson's last film, but her role of a tragic, fading belle is all too familiar in terms of prize-winning women's performances.

It may be no accident that for actresses the year's brightest surprises come from small, adventurous films. Playing a young Bronx mother struggling for independence, feisty Lauren Vélez appears in almost every frame of "I Like It Like That" and never loses her aplomb.

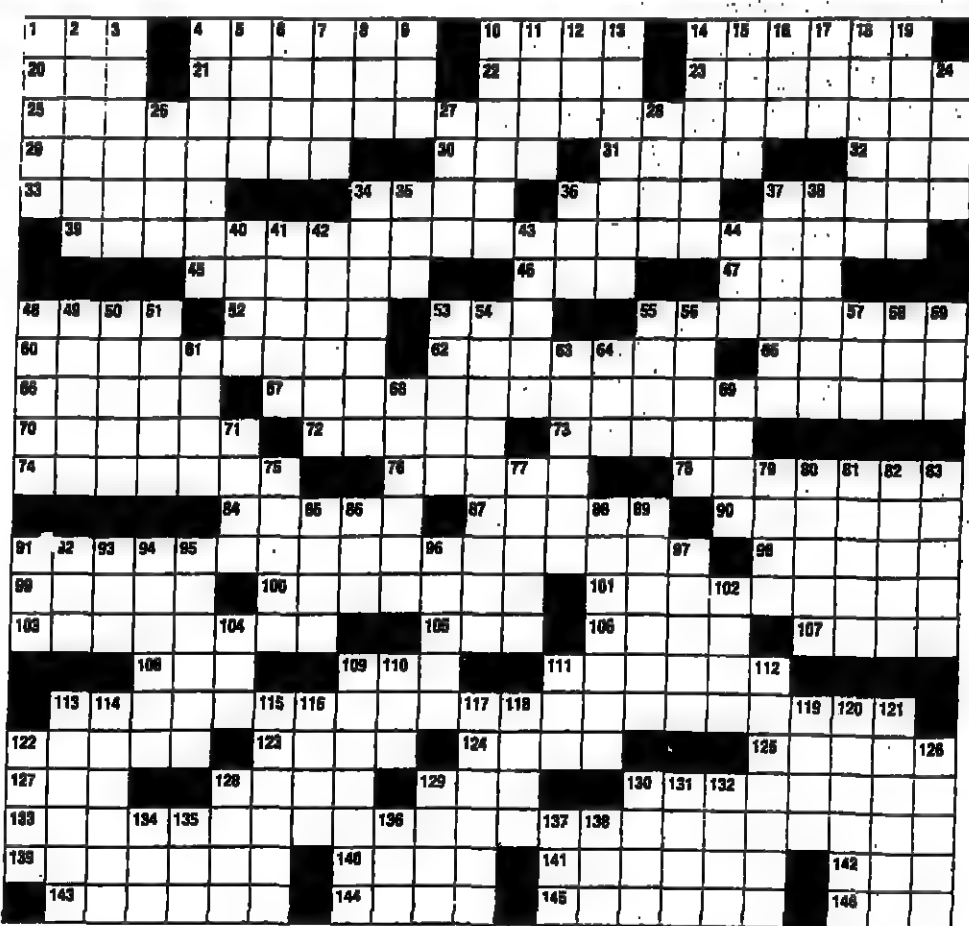
And mustn't forget: Linda Fiorentino in "The Last Seduction," the nastiest film noir this side of "The Grifters" (with yet another memorable supporting actor's performance from Bill Pullman as Ms. Fiorentino's sneaky husband). But she's not eligible for Academy Award consideration, because "The Last Seduction" was shown on television before being released theatrically. Too bad. Hollywood might have more best actress candidates if it envisioned more interesting women. And Ms. Fiorentino isn't someone who ought to be crossed.

WORKING TOGETHER

By MANNY NOSOWSKY & BOB KLAHN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

- 1 Lindstrom or Zadora
- 4 Wand waver's word
- 10 Starring
- 14 Gazelle hound
- 20 Du Maurier's "Jamaica"
- 21 Lean against
- 22 Windsurfers' mecca
- 23 Confidentially
- 25 Part 1 of a quote
- 29 Shari-Andrews movie "The Seed"
- 30 Notices
- 31 M-G-M founder Marcus
- 32 Napkin holder
- 33 Guardian Angels founder Curtis
- 34 Looks pooped
- 36 Summer theater, sometimes
- 37 Nauru export
- 39 Quote, part 2
- 40 Horrified
- 46 Housman's was from Shropshire
- 47 Jewbone source
- 48 Withdraws, with "out"
- 52 Clanton foe of 1881
- 53 '74 McCartney/Wings hit
- 55 Save
- 60 Author of the quote
- 62 Someone else
- 65 Valiant mate
- 66 Cairo in "The Maltese Falcon"
- 67 Quote, part 3
- 70 Know, somehow
- 72 Provider of sound bytes?
- 73 Little wise one
- 74 Supercilium
- 76 Hot time in Chile
- 78 Engage in vote-swapping
- 84 Where to take a load off
- 87 Totaled
- 90 Sartre novel
- 91 Quote, part 4
- 98 Lost City of the —
- 99 Ypsilanti's river
- 100 Albertville abodes
- 101 Quote, part 5
- 103 Catch
- 105 Auto racer — Fabi
- 106 Opulence
- 107 Electronic monitors, for short
- 108 A little butter
- 109 Carl Leach company
- 111 Buck
- 113 Quote, part 6
- 122 Prop (up)
- 123 Start of a child's rhyme
- 124 Toll rods
- 125 It means "high woods"
- 127 Single layer
- 128 Fourth-down option
- 129 Whodunit writer
- 130 Criticize vigorously
- 133 End of the quote
- 139 Steroid, for instance
- 140 Ballet bend
- 141 Plumberiferous
- 142 Selected at random
- 143 Columbus, e.g.
- 144 Attacks a sub?
- 145 Camisole size
- 146 Govt. code grp.



DOWN

- 1 "The Gale Storm Show" co-star
- 2 Bisection
- 3 Iron deficiency problem
- 4 By share
- 5 Do-fa filler
- 6 Cable staple
- 7 Draw alternative
- 8 Sandbox set member
- 9 Last word of "A Christmas Carol"
- 10 In the thick of
- 11 Guff
- 12 Paris accord
- 13 Where Sibelius made his markkaa
- 14 1994 Elle Macpherson film
- 15 De novo
- 16 Cornwall co.
- 17 Lake of Lucerne canton
- 18 Genghis's grandson
- 19 Gas-pump platform
- 24 Tit for tat, perhaps
- 26 Ravens' ravin'
- 27 Madras music
- 28 Classic 20's auto
- 24 Hang
- 35 Cunning
- 36 Pastoral plaint
- 37 Austrian painter Klimt
- 38 College in East Orange, N.J.
- 40 "The Morning Watch" author
- 41 Bewitch
- 42 Carson's swami
- 43 "Rocket Man" John
- 44 World chess champ, 1990-91
- 45 Burr Tillstrom puppet
- 46 Hoosier state flower
- 49 Egg cake
- 51 Hit the dirt?
- 53 Husband of Medea
- 54 Count
- 55 Unload, so to speak
- 56 Sylvia Plath title
- 57 Flycatcher?
- 58 N.F.L. city: Abbr.
- 59 "Whoopie!"
- 61 Charles, to Elizabeth
- 63 Oilman — Pickens
- 64 Fell
- 68 Easily angered
- 69 Henry VI founded it
- 71 Shure's "A" — Like Alice
- 75 Slap hard
- 77 — Rizzo of "Midnight Cowboy"
- 79 Writer Godwin like the futhark alphabet
- 81 Peace Nobel — Arias Sanchez
- 82 Inclined
- 83 Doesn't wear out
- 85 Long
- 86 Elvis's record label
- 88 Moses' burden
- 89 Torrent
- 91 — nuff!
- 92 1964 Murray Schisgal play
- 93 Get a lode of this
- 94 Sterile bee
- 95 After a while
- 96 Price twice
- 97 Popular Civil War song
- 102 In case
- 104 Miss Clare of "Bleak House"
- 109 Old photo
- 110 Technique
- 111 Washington's — Stadium
- 112 Like most highways
- 113 To Sandburg, it comes on little cat feet
- 114 French painter Daumier
- 115 National Cartoonists Society award
- 116 It's put before
- 117 Chopin's "Twelve Grand"
- 118 "Well"-financed grp.
- 119 Final notice
- 120 Heraclitus, e.g.
- 121 Authors Arya and Ernest
- 122 Persian pooh-bah
- 126 Raskolnikov's love in "Crime and Punishment"
- 128 Baseball's Alejandro
- 129 Huff
- 130 Hightail it
- 131 Autobahn auto
- 132 — a song...
- 134 D.D.E.'s Veep
- 135 Bill's companion
- 136 1941 Pulitzer winner
- 137 The Elger, e.g.
- 138 "To Kill a Mockingbird" author

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ETAL SEEN JOSTLE STOW
MUTE ULNA OBERON PAVO
BROWNIE HOWARD BAKER
ERN ANDY ONE SCOUTER
RECRUIT ROO STAINS SIT
STERS EUROPE LOOPED
QUEENSHERRY LOOPED
ECRU DASH AYAHANS
SHEIK SUPPLY LERA RAD
COATI TEARY TUTTI LANE
APPENDS COVER BIDLOW
PFE GRINE PRIMO ENHUI
END SADA TRAYER REUSE
UTTERLY BRIV ETES
MOSES CAPITALCITY
ATEAM HONORE COERCE
GHE PAYER AND GRADUAL
RESOLDER ASS GROS FRY
ALFREDSMITH REEDTUFTS
ELLE LEANTO INTO ALOE
SOYS ESSENE NEAT BENE



Recycling aluminum is profitable

EARTHLY CONCERNS
BY D'VORA BEN SHAUL

LOCAL manufacturers stopped making multi-metal soft-drink cans and switched to recyclable aluminum a few months ago, in response to new legislation. Now the manufacturers want to have the law repealed and return to the (mostly steel) unrecyclable multimetals, because producing from aluminum is more expensive and cans aren't being recycled as they were supposed to be.

Indeed, they are not. This is not surprising since, with the exception of voluntary nongovernmental agencies, especially EcoNet Israel, no one has made any attempt to get recycling of aluminum off the drawing board and into action.

Aluminum is by far the most profitable of all recyclable materials. All aluminum products - including soft-drink and beer cans, foil, old pots and pans, window and door frames, chicken feeders, and many of the old irrigation systems that are lying unused in kibbutzim and moshavim - are all worth money.

Alutherm in Ma'aleh Adumim buys recyclable aluminum at the world market price of NIS 2,400 per ton. They provide free collection for amounts of seven tons or more anywhere in the country, and for two tons or more in the Jerusalem area. Even if you pay the transport costs, such as NIS 650 for one ton from the Hadera area, you still make NIS 1,750.

Machines to compress cans sell for as little as \$175. They take up very little room, and EcoNet Israel is prepared to place new compactors in schools, in clubs, or with voluntary groups, and lets buyers pay for the compactor with proceeds from the first ton. Programs are already underway in the Pardess Hanna school and others. The machines are easy



Children practice recycling with a machine that gives money in return for each can. (Scoop 8)

and safe to operate and school-children can manage them. Sixty cans weigh a kilo and are worth NIS 2.40; 60,000 cans (far less than the amount littered on a public beach per week in season) weigh one ton and are worth NIS 2,400. A ton of compacted cans requires one cubic meter of storage space, which is about the size of an ordinary roof-top water tank.

Obviously, recycling aluminum is a worthwhile undertaking for many different types of groups. It could be a source of income for schools, clubs, charities and businesses, but it will never happen until people know about it and get organized.

It is unfortunate that too many good ideas get scrubbed simply because of a lack of proper logistics.

Certainly this is no time for the manufacturers to get the legislation repealed. The Environment Ministry succeeded in passing the legislation, but still has not got the show on the road. That is going to be up to the public. Interested groups should contact EcoNet, tel. and fax 06-377072 for further details, or write them at POB 581, Karkur 37105.

Speed kills state's claim

LAW REPORT
ASHER FELIX LANDAU

In the Supreme Court, sitting as a Court of Criminal Appeals, before justices Dov Levin, Gavriel Bach and Tova Strassberg-Cohen, in the matter of Gil Ladan, appellant, versus the State of Israel, respondent (Cr.A.3583/94).

LADAN was charged in a Magistrate's (Traffic) Court with driving a car at a speed of 126 kph in a 90 kph zone, in contravention of regulation 54(a)(5) of the Traffic Regulations of 1961.

His speed had been measured by a monitoring device. He sent the court the form annexed to the ticket he received, admitting he had driven the car at the time and place described, but denying that he had been driving at the speed recorded.

After the indictment had been read at the first session of the court, he said he was not sure if he was driving the car when the speed was measured, and also whether he was the car's registered owner on that date.

At the second session, the judge explained to him how to present evidence in a case of that kind. He also postponed the hearing to hear the evidence of both parties.

At the third session, the prosecution wished to introduce in evidence certificates, signed by public servants, testifying to the reliability of the measuring device; such written testimony is admissible, in certain circumstances, instead of verbal testimony.

Ladan objected, since he had not been given an opportunity to see them. The judge then postponed the hearing again to enable Ladan to read the prosecution's documents.

At the fourth session, it emerged that the certificate intended to prove the reliability of the device related to a different model.

At the fifth session, the judge decided that the prosecution's evidence was insufficient and dismissed the charge. However, he denied a request by Ladan to order the state to pay his expenses and did not give reasons for his decision.

Ladan appealed this decision

to the District Court of Haifa, which dismissed the appeal. By leave of the Supreme Court (leave is required for a second appeal), he then applied to the Supreme Court.

JUSTICE BACH, in delivering the judgment of the court, first cited section 80(a) of the Penal Law of 1977, and regulation 21(a) of the Criminal Procedure Regulations of 1974.

Section 80(a) states: "Where proceedings were instituted otherwise than by private complaint and it appears to the court that there was no basis for the charge or that there are other circumstances justifying it doing so, it may order that the Treasury pay to the accused the costs of his defense and compensation for his detention or imprisonment in connection with the charge of which he has been acquitted, to such amount as the court sees fit..."

Regulation 21(a) provides: "Where the court accedes to an application by a party to postpone a case, or it is postponed because of an act or omission of a party, the court may, if it finds it justified, impose upon such party the payment to the other party of his actual costs."

The District Court, relying on the record of the Magistrate's Court proceedings, held that the postponements were ordered to assist Ladan, who was unrepresented, to defend himself adequately. However, the District Court made no mention of section 80(a).

The court was of the opinion, Justice Bach continued, that Ladan was entitled to costs under section 80(a), since the evidence of the prosecution provided "no basis for the charge."

There may have been some error, but the fact remained that the prosecution could not have requested, let alone obtained, Ladan's conviction on the evidence in its possession.

The court had already held, he said, that where the evidence was

insufficient to call for an answer from the defendant, the charge should not be laid. If it is laid, the defendant is entitled to his costs.

Counsel for the State had in fairness agreed to the appeal. However, she had explained that where the device proved, prima facie, driving at an excessive speed, an indictment was lodged. If the driver admitted guilt, he was immediately convicted and sentenced. Only if he did not admit guilt did the prosecution attend to procuring proof of the device being reliable. That proof was then added to the investigation file, and placed before the court.

The above procedure, said Justice Bach, was unacceptable, and had to be corrected. The court had held in a recent precedent that where speeding was measured by technical devices, the indictment itself had to be supported by evidence of the instrument's reliability. That evidence was a vital part of the prosecution's case.

Counsel for the State had submitted that Ladan should be awarded costs for the Magistrate's Court proceedings only, and not for the other stages of the case. However, Justice Bach held that where, as in the present instance, there was no basis for the charge, there was no reason for that distinction. He added that this was also the rule in English courts.

Ladan, therefore, was entitled to costs for the five hearings in the Magistrate's Court which he was obliged to attend, and in the absence of any evidence that he was wholly or partially responsible for them. He was also entitled to costs for the District Court appeal, the application to the Supreme Court for leave to lodge the further appeal, and also for that appeal.

THE APPEAL was therefore allowed, and Ladan declared entitled to costs in the sum of NIS 7,500 as valued on the date of judgment.

Simha Nir appeared for Ladan, and assistant state attorney Sigal Kogut appeared for the State.

The judgment was given on November 23, 1994.

Lawyers using DNA 'fingerprints' to get innocent out of US jails

PAULA SPAN
NEW YORK

BARRY Scheck is on the phone with someone from Chicago. "A straightforward witness misidentification?" he asks.

Ever since the Innocence Project began freeing falsely convicted felons from prison through the use of DNA testing, he has been deluged with letters and calls like this one.

"And the witness still thinks he did it? Yes, I'm very interested," Scheck and his pal Peter Neufeld, who codirect the Innocence Project at Yeshiva University's Cardozo School of Law, are in demand these days. It's not only that they and the law students who staff the Innocence Project have been on a roll, though they have been: In September, client Brian Piazczek walked out of an Ohio penitentiary after serving four years of a 15- to 25-year sentence; a month later, Edward Honaker was pardoned after 10 years in jail in Virginia. In both cases, DNA tests demonstrated that the men could not have committed the rapes for which they'd been convicted.

Of the 15 to 20 former inmates around the country who've been exonerated by genetic testing, eight owe their freedom to the project. "There's no higher calling, no better thing to do as a lawyer," Scheck says. Extrapolating from FBI data, he believes there are "thousands of people in jail who would probably be able to prove their innocence by DNA testing, if there were a sample available."

But there's also the consuming matter of Scheck and Neufeld's other, better-known client, for whom DNA testing may prove crucial as well: one O.J. Simpson.

As the DNA specialists on his defense team, Scheck and Neufeld will be major players in the trial, arguing in this instance against relying on the blood samples that could help place Simpson at the murder scene.

People who deal with forensics and the law were not surprised when Neufeld and Scheck were recruited for the Simpson team, though a defendant that can pay them \$150 an hour is a rarity.

Two former Bronx Legal Aid lawyers in their mid-forties, they've been immersed in the complex issue of DNA in criminal law for years, not only taking on landmark cases themselves but staging seminars and chairing a task force to alert other lawyers to the new science.

"They've been crusaders in ensuring that DNA technology is properly conducted and fairly ap-

plied," says Cleveland attorney Terry Gilbert, who was Piazczek's local counsel.

"For attorneys without strong scientific backgrounds, their understanding of the technology is remarkable," says Paul Ferrara, director of Virginia's Division of Forensic Sciences.

PEOPLE TEND to describe DNA testing in dramatic terms reminiscent of the way atomic power was portrayed in the '50s: all that enormous potential for good or for evil.

It's probably the most powerful new tool in the arena of crime and punishment since fingerprinting.

Earlier than most, Scheck and Neufeld were struck by its possibilities and its potential problems. "It became clear that this was something that had to be pursued," Scheck says. "And no one else was going to pursue it."

DNA profiling became widely used in the late 1980s, particularly in sexual assault cases. Once laboratories could extract deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA, which contains an individual's unique genetic code) from cells found in

body fluids and tissues - blood, semen, saliva, skin - prosecutors eagerly adopted the technology as a way to convict suspects whose analyzed DNA "matched" that retrieved from victims or from the crime scene.

But Scheck and Neufeld recognized that DNA tests could also work to clear people whose DNA was different from samples recovered at the scene, even people who'd already been tried and convicted when testing was unavailable or less precise than it has become.

If evidence has not been discarded, if samples can be secured and sent to labs, if the results exclude him as a suspect, then a prisoner may well be on his way to a reversed conviction, a new trial or a pardon.

This is what the Innocence Project does. Stuffed into narrow cubicles with phones and old computers, 18 third-year law students work eye-straining hours rereading trial transcripts, tracking evidence, keeping tabs on a collective caseload of 250 to 300 mostly indigent clients. "Who else would have the time to work on all these cases, take on complicated

issues, on an essentially pro-bono basis?" Scheck notes. "You know people are depending on you," said student Jonas Kant. "You get caught up in the excitement. You see results."

Kant was proudly watching CNN in the Cardozo student lounge as Honaker was freed this fall. It took not one but two pro-bono groups to persuade Virginia Governor George Allen to pardon Honaker, who would have spent the rest of his life in jail.

Centurion Ministries, a New Jersey-based advocacy group, did the field investigation and then called in the Innocence Project, which secured the release of evidence for definitive DNA testing.

"If we had taken it on alone, he'd still be in jail because we didn't know about polymerase testing," says Centurion investigator Kate Germond, referring to a more precise form of DNA profiling. But Scheck did.

Phillip Payne, the Nelson County, Virginia, prosecutor, didn't oppose Scheck's motion to send vaginal swabs from the rape victim to a California lab. "My expectations were that [Honaker] would be further nailed down as

the culprit," Payne says. But the DNA results showed that the semen on the swabs wasn't Honaker's. "I don't think any court would have failed to exonerate him with that evidence in hand," Payne says now. "As a legal matter, he wouldn't be convicted. Couldn't be."

Says Honaker of his rescuers, "There aren't enough words in the English language to express what I owe those people."

THE USE of DNA samples to rule out a suspect is scientifically incontestable. "An exclusion is an exclusion," says Ferrara, Virginia's head of forensics.

What still triggers plenty of controversy, however, is the use of DNA to incriminate a defendant - as People v. O.J. Simpson is about to demonstrate.

Here and there, people who've worked with Scheck and Neufeld on DNA issues worry about the impact of the Simpson trial. Having long argued that DNA is reliable enough to free convicted rapists, can they now credibly argue that DNA evidence should not be admitted against O.J. Simpson?

Defense lawyers have learned to challenge DNA evidence on two fronts. One is the so-called "population-genetics" issue: When samples don't match, they don't match. Period. But there is a slight possibility that a sample taken from a crime scene may match with more than one person's DNA. (That's because the tests involve fragments of DNA, not the entire unique chain.)

What are the odds that someone other than the defendant could have left blood droplets whose DNA matches O.J. Simpson's at, say, Nicole Brown Simpson's house?

Dueling experts will offer estimates, depending on the type of test used: The odds cited could range from one in tens of thousands to one in 10 million. The defense will contend that the small chance of a coincidence leaves room for reasonable doubt.

Of greater importance to Scheck and Neufeld is the other possibility that a match isn't a match: Mistakes happen.

(The Washington Post)

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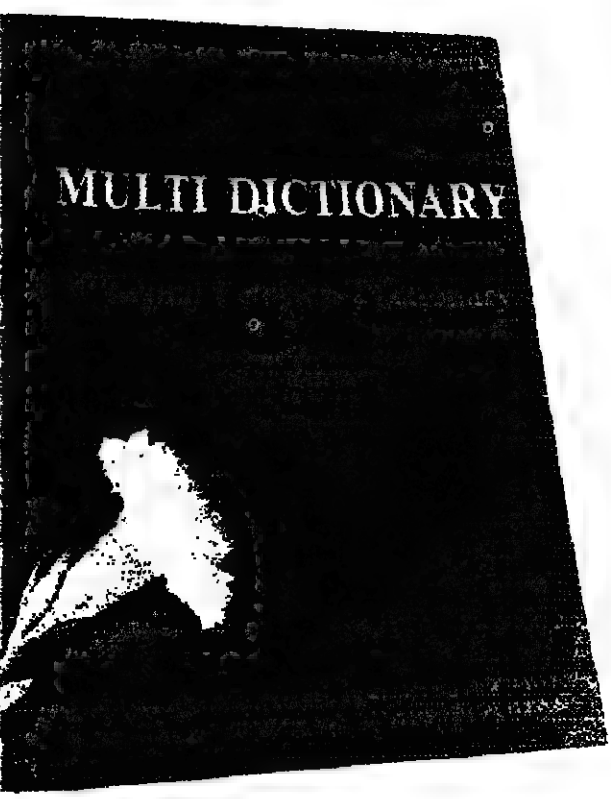
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1991

Frenkel blasts proposal for reducing inflation

BANK of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel opposed legislation proposed at yesterday's cabinet meeting aimed at reducing inflationary pressures, for fear it will enable the government to print money.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat put on the cabinet's table two legislative proposals that were originally agreed upon between the central bank and the Treasury in mid-August.

One proposal aims to change the requirement that the government balance its books by December 31 of every year, and instead gives the Treasury 30 days to balance its books, as is currently the case for every other month of the year.

This technical change is expected to save the Treasury money, since to meet the existing requirement the government borrows more than needed to insure it will not be caught short at the end of the year.

The end-of-year borrowing frenzy pushes interest rates up in the capital market and increases the government's financing costs.

The second proposal, which was drafted at the Bank of Isra-

JOSE ROSENFELD

el's request, increases the ceiling of short-term bonds (*makam*) the central bank can sell in the capital market to NIS 10 billion, rising to NIS 15b. within a few years.

But Frenkel opposed both bills, since the Treasury did not include a provision that the government cannot use the money raised by means of *makam* bonds.

Frenkel said that otherwise the government would be circumventing the law prohibiting it from printing money that was enacted as part of the stabilization reform package in 1985.

"Hogwash," Treasury Supervisor of the Capital Market Meir Shavit shot back.

The *makam* is merely a government bond like any other government bond, except that the Bank of Israel sells and buys it, Shavit said.

The Treasury pays the bonds' interest payments out of the state budget, just as it does on the bonds sold by the Treasury, so "by the law's definition it is not printing money," he added.

The central bank uses the

bonds as a tool to control the money supply.

However, as part of the agreed reforms, the Bank of Israel can now also intervene in the secondary bond market and buy longer-term Treasury bonds to inject more cash in the economy.

Shavit said the Treasury dislikes the idea of the Bank of Israel selling bonds, since no other central banks do so.

However, "we agreed in deference to the Bank of Israel's independent role."

Nevertheless, by increasing the ceiling to up to NIS 15b. a year, the central bank will be raising as much money as the Treasury is now doing to finance the deficit, pointed out Shavit.

"If I pay the interest, then I might as well use the money," he said.

According to Shavit, originally the ceiling for *makam* bonds was NIS 3b. and is now NIS 6b., so it was not significant enough for the Treasury to touch.

However, once it becomes a large chunk of government borrowing, the Treasury will not want to leave such an expensive resource untapped.

Ararat starts investigation into fees allegedly paid to Shapira

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ARARAT Insurance Company has started an inquiry into the commission fees allegedly paid to MK Avraham Shapira, the former owner of Carmel Carpets, the company's legal department informed the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday.

The inquiry is related to events which took place when Supervisor of Insurance Meir Shavit was employed as Ararat's vice president of finance from 1986 to 1992.

Ararat decided to open an investigation following an NIS 8.1 million individual lawsuit filed against Shavit and the company.

Attorney Yosef Cohen and ac-

countant Ovadia Blass filed the suit with the Tel Aviv District Court last week.

In the suit, Cohen and Blass claimed Ararat cooperated with Shapira in an attempt to cheat the conglomerate and its creditors out of money. The liquidators said Ararat paid Shapira large sums of money as office expenses and consultancy fees.

The liquidators argued that, to the best of their knowledge, Shapira was never an expert on insurance issues or office services.

In response to the request, the court ruled to place a temporary

freeze on Shapira's homes in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Insurance sources said Savit, in his previous position, signed documents instructing Ararat to pay Shapira for services not rendered. Asked to comment, Savit said that "since the issue is being discussed in court, I have to refrain from reacting."

In a TASE announcement, Ararat said the company has received unofficial information that a suit was filed at the Tel Aviv District Court by Carmel Carpets liquidators, in the name of the conglomerate.

The suit was filed against Avraham and Tova Shapira and the company demanding the return NIS 4.1m. and payment of a NIS 4m. compensation fine.

It is unclear whether the compensation fine concerns all the defendants or only Tova Shapira. The suit wants the return of commission insurance payments, which for several years were shared between the conglomerate's insurance agent and Avraham Shapira.

The suit claims the commissions were illegally taken out of the conglomerate. The company has instructed its legal advisers to examine the issue.

Motorola attacks ministry's frequency allocation policy

RACHEL NEIMAN

MOTOROLA general manager Hanan Achsaf yesterday attacked the Communications Ministry's frequency allocation policy, which he says limits the cellular communications industry.

"Together, Motorola and Celcom can absorb [only] up to 400,000 subscribers, due to a lack of [available] frequencies," Achsaf said. "Beyond that amount the companies will have to postpone requests. If not, they run the risk of disconnections, interference and an inferior level of service."

Achsaf said the current policy was "short-sighted," ignoring the rapid growth in cellular phone

technology, pointing out that the use of cellular phones has tripled over the past two years.

He also expressed concern over the sector's ability to keep pace with growth in 1995.

Celcom vice president of engineering and operations Shalom Manova does not share Achsaf's concerns, saying his company's TDMA technology is three times as effective in frequency usage than AMPS (the analog technology used by Motorola).

"I am surprised that Mr. Achsaf is representing Celcom," Manova said. "We are a mature company perfectly capable of representing ourselves."

Ministers: No to EU deal

INDUSTRY and Trade Minister Micha Harish and Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur yesterday announced their opposition to signing a new trade agreement with the European Union (EU), because the Europeans refuse to significantly open their markets.

At a meeting with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Harish and Tsur took exception to the various limitations the Europeans have failed to remove before Israeli exports.

These include the EU's refusal to open access to government telecommunications procurement, raw textile exports and processed foods and agricultural products, as well as the refusal to accord Israel full membership in industrial research and development projects.

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Israel Growth Fund plans to raise \$40m.

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Israel Growth Fund has announced it will raise \$40 million for investments here and expects to raise an additional \$75m. in the coming months.

The fund plans to promote equity investment in private companies here in an attempt to speed up their rate of growth.

The fund was jointly established by Leumi & Co., a member of the Bank Leumi group; Apex Partners, one of the largest private investment managers in

the world; and Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), an American governmental organization.

Bank Leumi said the fund's major investors include large institutional investors from the US, the majority of whom are making investments in Israel for the first time.

The investors include Archer Daniels Midland; MIT Universi-

ty's pension and donation fund; Zenith Insurance Corp., a California-based insurance firm; Continental Insurance Co., a member of the Lowes group; and Cohen, a New York brokerage firm.

Other investors include Atarai-Sharon, a member of the Tashvuz group that is owned by Yitzhak Tshuva; Dagon Batey-Mangoroth; Coca-Cola, which is headed by chairman Muzi Wertheim, and Bank Leumi.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Electric Corp.'s budget jumps 12% to NIS 9 billion: The Israel Electric Corporation has increased its budget next year by 12 percent to NIS 9 billion, the company's board of directors announced yesterday. Adi Amoral, chairman of the board, said the company has allocated 50 percent of the budget for development, 25% for fuel and 25% for operations. The IEC said electricity consumption has increased 7.5% annually in the last eight years, reflecting economic growth, a rise in the standard of living and an increase in population.

IEC financing manager Yossi Dvir said the allocation of NIS 4.5 billion to development was a 25% increase over this year. The company plans to invest NIS 1.6b. in the establishment of new power stations, of which NIS 524m. will be invested in the new coal station currently under construction in Hadera, he said. The company also plans to invest in establishment of industrial gas turbines and renovation of existing power stations. About NIS 1b. will be allocated to improving the company's supply system, including upgrading power lines. Another NIS 1.2b. will be invested in an electricity distribution system to improve supply and connect about 50,000 new customers.

Trade with Jordan said to have potential of \$120m. annually: Trade with Jordan could total \$120 million annually in the next three years, according to the Israel Export Institute.

It said the greatest potential is in the fields of know-how and professional services in education, industrialization of the construction industry, infrastructure and port services. Milk products head the list of possible agricultural exports to Jordan, followed by irrigation equipment, rainwater reclamation technology and desert agriculture techniques.

Polgat looks into signing deals with Jordanian textile firms: Polgat Industries is examining the possibility of establishing joint venture textile agreements in Jordan, Polgat managing director Motti Baron said yesterday. He said a delegation of 25 businessmen from Jordan are scheduled to arrive in Israel soon.

C. Holdings reports NIS 2.4m. net profits: C. Holdings reported a NIS 2.4 million net profit for the first nine months of the year, compared with a NIS 1.1m. net loss for the same period last year. Nine month revenues went up to NIS 48m. from NIS 10m.

ECI Telecom to sell \$7.3m. in equipment to Brazilian firm: ECI Telecom has agreed to sell \$7.3 million in digital communications equipment to Embratel, a Brazilian telecommunications company. Embratel is a subsidiary of Telebras, which owns the majority of telecommunications firms in Brazil.

100 Korean businessmen accept invitation to conference: One hundred Korean businessmen have accepted the Chambers of Commerce's invitation to attend the International Small Business Conference next November.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (18.12.94)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.825	6.250	7.000
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	5.825	6.250	7.000
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.825	4.825	5.000
Swiss franc (CHF 200,000)	3.250	3.500	3.750
Yen (10 million yen)	3.750	4.075	4.375

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (18.12.94)

CHECKS AND TRAVELERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Bank
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.3170	3.3840	3.3840	3.3452
U.S. dollar	2.9825	3.0307	2.9825	3.0140
German mark	1.9011	1.9279	1.9011	1.9173
Pound sterling	4.2724	4.7382	4.2724	4.7088
French franc	0.5519	0.5987	0.5519	0.5987
Japanese yen (100)	2.9805	3.0225	2.9805	3.0225
Dutch guilder	1.8777	1.9216	1.8777	1.9216
Swiss franc	2.9425	2.9819	2.9425	2.9819
Swedish krona	0.3872	0.4027	0.3872	0.4027
Norwegian krona	0.4382	0.4423	0.4382	0.4423
Danish krone	0.4633	0.4688	0.4633	0.4688
Finland mark	0.6130	0.6217	0.6130	0.6217
Canadian dollar	2.1561	2.1885	2.1561	2.1885
Australian dollar	2.2150	2.2475	2.2150	2.2475
S. African rand	0.5570	0.5687	0.5570	0.5687
Belgian franc (10)	0.9250	0.9380	0.9250	0.9380
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7022	2.7402	2.7022	2.7402
Italian Lira (1000)	1.8225	1.8585	1.8225	1.8585
Japanese yen (100)	3.2275	3.2670	3.2275	3.2670
Israeli pound	4.5992	4.6330	4.5992	4.6330
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2885	2.2985	2.2885	2.2985

* Three rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

(מטרה) TARGET מטרה
Mutual Fund for
Foreign Residents

Date: 15.12.94

Purchase Price: 133.19

Redemption Price: 131.07

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PRIME מ"מ
Mutual Fund for
Foreign Residents

Date: 15.12.94

Purchase Price: 96.31

Redemption Price: 94.87

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US dollar	NIS 3.0140	Change
Sterling	NIS 4.7072	---
Mark	NIS 1.9179	---

Intel faces rash of lawsuits

PALO ALTO (Reuters) - Intel Corp. is facing a rash of lawsuits and mounting complaints stemming from its failure to quickly disclose a flaw in its fastest computer chip.

The Santa Clara, California-based chip giant discovered an obscure flaw in its flagship Pentium microprocessor last July but kept it under wraps until November, when a mathematics professor publicized the problem with the chip on the Internet, the web of global computer networks.

Intel's stock price, although recovered Friday, has suffered, along with the company's reputation, as outraged Pentium personal computer users raised their voices.

Last Monday, International Business Machines Corp. dealt a sharp blow to Intel, saying it would stop shipping PCs equipped with Pentium chips. IBM, the largest computer maker, claimed the risk of mathematical error was far worse than Intel has claimed.

Intel says a typical user would find an error in the chip's calculations once every 27,000 years. IBM says such an error would more likely occur once every 24 days.

This week a flurry of lawsuits have cropped up, charging Intel with everything from securities fraud to false advertising to violation of unfair-trade practices law. Intel has fortified its already formidable legal team with further representation.

"Intel has such a huge legal budget that its lawyers can probably take care of these [lawsuits] in their free time," said Linley Gwennap, editor of *Microprocessor Report*, an industry newsletter.

"But the fact is, ethically they should have come out with it when they found the bug," Intel spokesperson Howard High said so far only one person, Thomas Nicely, the mathematician who discovered the flaw, has confirmed that he encountered the problem in a real-world setting.

He said Intel has already replaced thousands of flawed chips and expects to replace thousands in response to consumer concerns.

One of the recent suits is a class action filed by the San Francisco firm Lieff, Cabraser & Heimann on behalf of several individuals. It charges Intel with unfair business practices, false advertising, violation of the consumer protection statute, breach of implied warranty and negligence.

"If they were behaving responsibly, they would try to clean up the problem quickly by telling customers," said James Finberg, a partner at Lieff. "But instead, they continue to sell the chip without telling people... It's outrageous."

More than four million flawed Pentiums are likely to be sold this year. Intel has said it will continue making the original chip until the end of next year's first quarter, as it rushes to produce the new improved version.

Finberg said the suit seeks damages of about \$600 million, the estimated cost of replacing two million chips at an average \$300 a piece.

Another suit has been filed by the San Diego, Calif. law firm Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes & Lerach, charging securities fraud against Intel.

At least one state has hopped on the anti-Intel bandwagon as well. Earlier this week, the attorney-general of Connecticut, Richard Blumenthal, threatened suit against Intel, saying in a letter to Intel's chief executive officer Andrew Grove that he is "troubled by claims that Intel has misrepresented the magnitude of the defect."

Blumenthal said in a telephone interview that he is giving Grove until Friday to respond to his letter before the state proceeds with legal action.

Smith Barney, a unit of Travelers Inc., has demanded that IBM replace hundreds of Intel's Pentium chips that are installed in its in-house computers, according to an article appearing in this week's issue of *Information Week*.

IBM officials could not be reached for immediate comment, and a Smith Barney spokesman declined comment.

Building starts jump 25% in central region

AN increase in construction starts in the center of the country the last two years has reduced the gap between supply of housing there and the periphery, according to a Contractors Association survey.

While building starts fell five percent this year in the periphery due to the oversupply of housing, they increased 12% in Tel Aviv, 25% in the central region and 20% in Haifa.

The contractors said housing prices will continue to rise in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem but at a lower rate. Prices will increase at a faster rate in Haifa, the report said.

"Due to the shortage of land reserves in these areas, there is an urgent need for a statutory change in city building plans to allow a significant increase in building percentages," the report said. "This will enable higher building, as characteristic in all large cities throughout the world."

The public's purchase of new apartments went up 17% last year, while the sale of second-hand apartments increased 9%, according to the report.

Red Sea Hotels has purchased an office building in Purchase for \$24 million. The 12-story building is situated in the business area of Hartford, the capital of Connecticut.

The building includes 26,000 square meters of net rental space and a 33,000-sq.m. parking lot for 1,200 vehicles.

Melioran plans to invest \$10 million in the construction of 200 housing units on a 16.5-dunam plot north of Kiryat, in Kiryat Bialik.

The housing development will contain three, 20-story buildings.

Shked Netanel plans to invest \$10m. in construction of Ramez House, an office and commercial building to be situated on 2.5 dunams in the center of Netanya.

The building will include 15,000 sq.m. of space, including 1,200 of commercial space and 6,700 sq.m. of office space for rent and sale.

The modern complex will also include two and a half parking floors with space for 180 vehicles.

NTM Transportation Properties and Trade have signed an

agreement with Isracard to construct Isracard House in Tel Aviv.

The building will be situated on a 3.5-dunam plot owned by NTM Isracard, which will pay \$7.8m. to NTM for a 50 percent ownership in the building.

The five-story building will include 20,000 sq.m. of space, including 7,700 sq.m. of office space, which will be occupied by Isracard.

The parking lot will be suitable for 300 vehicles.

Elram was awarded a contract to construct a housing development in the Neveh Shikma district in Rishon LeZion.

The company plans to construct 120 apartments in three buildings. The development will be constructed on 8.3 dunams, and occupancy is scheduled for the end of 1996.

Elram plans to start offering apartments for sale in two weeks. The company is offering a three-

room, 100-sq.m. apartment for \$150,000, and a four-room, 120-sq.m., apartment for about \$200,000.

The price of a 150-sq.m. penthouse starts at \$250,000.

Hai Meidan announced the sale of six housing units available in the Pisgat Ha'gai development in Karmiel, one week before the company opens its sales site.

The development is situated on a slope, at Karmiel's south entrance.

The company reported the sale of two villas, each at \$155,000, and two mini-cottages at \$145,000 per unit. The company also sold four, four-room apartments at \$130,000 per unit.

Upon completion, the Pisgat Ha'gai development will include 66 housing units, including 54 apartments and 12 villas.

The company is offering for sale six-room garden apartments which can be divided into two separate units, a four-room

apartment and a two-room apartment.

The company is also constructing four-room and five-room apartments with a balcony. The price of a four-room apartment starts at \$135,000, while a garden apartment is available for \$155,000.

Bug Multimedia, an importer and distributor of computer games and literature, has rented a shop on Hillel Street in the center of Jerusalem.

The company rented a 180-sq.m. shop for \$5,500 per month.

NTM Properties, engaged in sale, rent and management of property for industry and trade, has announced a number of real estate transactions.

Furniture Storage has rented 800 sq.m. in Rishon LeZion's new industrial district. The space was rented from Haprachim Investments for \$8.20 per square meter.

Sarter-Greenberg Packaging firm has rented 1,300 sq.m. in Ashdod's industrial zone. The industrial space was rented from Hydron at \$4.75 per square meter. The company signed a three-year contract.

Thirty-five companies partici-

ated in the Jerusalem apartment fair, which ended last week. The companies reported the sale of dozens of apartments in Jerusalem, Modi'in, Bet Shemesh, Efrat, Givat Ze'ev and Ashdod.

Laid Development and Building recently sold 1,500 sq.m. in Rosh Ha'ayin's Industrial Mall to AMT Computers.

The space was sold for \$199m. Construction of the 30,000 sq.m. mall is scheduled for May 1995.

Onot, the large size fashion and clothing chain, announced the opening of its seventh shop in Herzliya.

The company has invested \$80,000 in the 50-sq.m. store in Miraz 2000.

The Al-Rov Group announced it has sold 77 percent of the apartments available in the Opera Tower, a residential development in the heart of Tel Aviv.

The apartments were sold for a total of NIS 101.5m.

The company recently sold a three-room, 100-sq.m. apartment on the 17th floor for \$704,000 to a foreign resident.

The company also reported the sale of a 200-sq.m. apartment on the 18th floor for \$1.36m.

BBC wants new rules on TV signal scrambling

LONDON (Reuters) - The British Broadcasting Corporation is to try today to talk the European parliament into tough new laws covering scrambled television signals.

Along with a group of other terrestrial broadcasters, the BBC is pitting itself against a powerful lobby of satellite operators, including British Sky Broadcasting and Canal Plus.

The BBC fears if a handful of satellite operators keep their current stranglehold on the devices which scramble encrypted television signals, other broadcasters could find launching new television channels extremely difficult in the future.

Television viewers could lose out, too, once digital broadcasting, which will eventually allow hundreds of new channels, starts next year, according to the BBC's chief adviser on commercial policy, Robin Foster.

Viewers either face buying more than one \$300 set-top decoder box, or sticking to a

single system and limiting the number of channels they have access to.

Foster said the BBC's two new joint European satellite television channels with media group Pearson Plc, due to start next year, were only the first stage in its plans.

"These two channels are not the limit of our ambitions," he said in an interview. "We might want to run more subscription channels in the future."

He said the state-owned BBC may choose, if the government permits, to operate pay-TV channels in Britain in the future, using digital technology.

"There are no firm plans at the moment but it makes good sense for us to make sure options are not closed off," he said.

The BBC has a study under way on digital terrestrial broadcasting, due to be completed in March.

Britain's Office of Fair Trading is investigating the competition aspect of the VideoCrypt

encryption system owned by BSkyB's biggest shareholder, Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation Ltd.

VideoCrypt has control of encryption of virtually all British pay-TV channels, and BSkyB is the dominant broadcaster in Britain's fledgling satellite and cable market.

Foster said a report it commissioned from industry consultants Arthur D. Little found if monopoly owners of decoding systems were allowed to emerge, development of new services could be stifled.

Owners of the systems, who may also operate satellite television channels, could limit the availability of competitors' channels.

Foster said the BBC is arguing for common standards, or regulation of the terms giving broadcasters access to the systems.

Along with other broadcasters, it is to put its case to a hearing of the European Parliament's Economic and Monetary Committee today.

February gold falls

COMMODITIES REPORT

FEBRUARY gold closed down \$1.60 on Friday to \$381.10 an ounce.

After shooting up in early trading in response to higher than expected US November housing starts, the markets inability to crack chart resistance sent prices to fresh lows at the close.

Traders seem optimistic that this metal may still attempt to extend Friday's high's before the end of the year.

The disappointing action in the gold pit caused March silver to slide down 1.7 cents to close at \$4.875 an ounce. Analysts said there was very little news out which turned players toward the gold ring for direction.

Comex copper futures closed weaker on Friday in range-bound trading. March futures closed down 0.30 cents to 135.85 cents a pound.

also boosted prices, but gains were limited by constant reminders of the record crop this year in the US, as well as news of favorable growing conditions in South America.

Cotton prices fell sharply on Friday - mostly technically driven - as trade and local selling dominated most of the action, traders said.

News that China had denied buying cotton may have also had a negative impact on this market. March futures ended down 1.71 cents to close at \$3.17 cents a pound.

CSCE world sugar reached new 4-1/2 year highs in a midday rally on Friday, but producer pricing and profit-taking pushed prices down to a slightly firmer close with March futures up 0.12 cents to 15.13 cents a pound.

A report by the USDA early in the week, which estimated a neutral-to-bearish Brazilian and world coffee crop, caused coffee prices to plunge.

This decline was halted on Thursday as the specter of a renewed export retention plan, as well as a report of a sharper than expected decline of Green Coffee Association warehouse stocks, provided support to this market.

March futures gained 8.15 cents to close at 158.55 cents a pound.

March cocoa futures gained \$9 to close at \$1,305 a tonne on Friday after a session which included heavy spreading activity, traders said. Early speculation and commission-house buying led to moderate trade interest, but speculators switched to spread positions as the trade began selling at the highs.

Courtesy of Michael Zwebnier, Comstock Trading Ltd.

TEL AVIV STOCKS									
Multi-sided trading					Two-sided trading				
Commercial					Afternoon				
Name	Price	Change	Volume	Share	Name	Price	Change	Volume	Share
Bank Leumi	1834	-1.2	144,000	30.1	Bank Leumi	1834	-1.2	144,000	30.1
Bank Hapoalim	1781	-2.5	144,000	30.1	Bank Hapoalim	1781	-2.5	144,000	30.1
Bank Mizrahi	1610	-1.8	144,000	30.1	Bank Mizrahi	1610	-1.8	144,000	30.1
Bank Discount	1540	-1.2	144,000	30.1	Bank Discount	1540	-1.2	144,000	30.1
Bank Hapoalim	1410	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Hapoalim	1410	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Leumi	1310	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Leumi	1310	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Mizrahi	1210	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Mizrahi	1210	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Discount	1110	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Discount	1110	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Hapoalim	1010	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Hapoalim	1010	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Leumi	910	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Leumi	910	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Mizrahi	810	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Mizrahi	810	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Discount	710	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Discount	710	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Hapoalim	610	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Hapoalim	610	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Leumi	510	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Leumi	510	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Mizrahi	410	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Mizrahi	410	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Discount	310	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Discount	310	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Hapoalim	210	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Hapoalim	210	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Leumi	110	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Leumi	110	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Mizrahi	10	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Mizrahi	10	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Discount	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Discount	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Hapoalim	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Hapoalim	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Leumi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Leumi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Mizrahi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Mizrahi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Discount	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Discount	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Hapoalim	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Hapoalim	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Leumi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Leumi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Mizrahi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Mizrahi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Discount	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Discount	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Hapoalim	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Hapoalim	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Leumi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Leumi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
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Bank Discount	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Discount	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Hapoalim	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Hapoalim	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Leumi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Leumi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
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Bank Discount	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Discount	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Hapoalim	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Hapoalim	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Leumi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Leumi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
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Bank Discount	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Discount	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
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Bank Discount	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Discount	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
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Bank Leumi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Leumi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
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Bank Hapoalim	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Hapoalim	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Leumi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Leumi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Mizrahi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Mizrahi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Discount	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Discount	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Hapoalim	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Hapoalim	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Leumi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Leumi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Mizrahi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Mizrahi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Discount	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Discount	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Hapoalim	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Hapoalim	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Leumi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Leumi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Mizrahi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Mizrahi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Discount	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Discount	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Hapoalim	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Hapoalim	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Leumi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Leumi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Mizrahi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Mizrahi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Discount	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Discount	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Hapoalim	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Hapoalim	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Leumi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Leumi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1
Bank Mizrahi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.1	Bank Mizrahi	0	-1.1	144,000	30.

Gatting completes double ton

TOOWOOMBA (AP) — Pugnacious veteran batsman Mike Gatting completed a double century yesterday as England moved into a strong position after the second day of its four-day cricket match against Queensland at Heritage Park.

Gatting scored 203 not out and staked a strong claim for a place in the team to face England in the second Test from December 24 with a confident performance as the tourists made 507-6 declared in their first innings.

It was England's highest total on tour and the first time it had scored more than 400 runs. Gatting recorded his 83rd first-class century.

Strike bowler Devon Malcolm then gave England more reason for cheer when he

opened the bowling and dismissed Queensland opener Matthew Hayden (8) and Trevor Bardsby (15).

Queensland was 197-4 at stumps after Stuart Law made an authoritative 91 before being caught in the deep by Angus Fraser.

Jimmy Maher (22) and Andrew Symonds (4) were the last of the recognized batsmen and will resume this morning.

Gatting was denied his personal celebration when he was smacked in the jaw two overs into the Queensland first innings.

He leaned low and forward to make a regulation hit in the covers from Queensland opener Trevor Bardsby, but the ball reared and crashed into his face.

He fell to the ground as his teammates rushed to his aid. He left the field for treatment and did not return.

Gatting was later reported to have suffered a lacerated mouth and a bruised jaw. His innings had earlier lasted almost eight hours and 345 balls.

Alec Stewart was unbeaten on 53 at the declaration after he and Gatting added 145 in an unbroken stand.

In other matches, Sri Lanka beat New Zealand by five wickets in their Mandela Trophy quadrangular tournament 50 overs match at Buffalo Park in East London, south Africa on Sunday. New Zealand was 255-4 (30 overs), and Sri Lanka 257-5 (47.1).

Graeme Souness denies receiving transfer gifts for Cohen, Ginsburg

LONDON (AP) — While Arsenal manager George Graham awaits the outcome of a Premier League inquiry into allegations that he improperly received a £285,000 gift from an agent, former Glasgow Rangers and Liverpool coach Graeme Souness denied claims that he collected £30,000 to buy two Israelis, defender Avi

Cohen and goalkeeper Bonnie Ginsburg in a similar way.

The tabloid *Mail on Sunday*, which made the allegations against Graham last weekend, alleged that Souness, then manager of Rangers, sent his wife on a 750-mile round-trip to collect £30,000 in cash from an Israeli soccer agent.

In a front page story, the paper says that Danielle Souness drove from Edinburgh to Heathrow airport and the money was handed to her in a cocktail lounge.

In a statement issued in London through his lawyers, Souness said the allegations were "completely untrue." He plans to sue the *Mail on Sunday* for libel.

'I hope they mistake Zoe for a man's name'

Lara dismissed by woman bowler at Sir Donald Bradman charity match

SYDNEY (Reuters) — Many of the world's leading bowlers have toiled in vain over the past couple of years to claim the prized scalp of Brian Lara — perhaps they should ask Zoe Goss how it is done.

Australian women's cricketer Zoe dismissed the world record holder for 26 at the Sydney Cricket Ground — and for good measure she did it twice with the same ball.

Playing in a Sir Donald Bradman XI-World XI charity match, she had Lara caught by wicket-keeper Steve Rixon, who then stumped the West Indian just to make sure.

"I tried my best not to get out but these things happen," said a subdued Lara. "I hope it doesn't get back home — if it does, I hope they mistake Zoe for a man's name."

"I think he was fairly nervous about getting out to a girl. It was in the back of his mind," said Zoe. "He didn't do too much talking about it afterwards."

Lara's downfall was witnessed by a crowd of 17,456, who chanted "Zoe's a legend," and television viewers in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. One fan even risked arrest to run on to the pitch to shake her hand.

Presumably it was not the attendant who refused to allow 26-

year-old Goss into the dressing room before the match. It took some quick talking to persuade him that she was meant to be there.

She finished with two for 60 from 10 overs of medium pace — her other victim was former West Indies test wicketkeeper Jeff Dujon — and scored 29 with the bat.

Before last night's match, Zoe said she would be "representing the standard of women's cricket." Lara will be the first to agree she didn't do a bad job.

She was narrowly pipped by South African Graeme Pollock as player of the match, but that didn't really matter to Goss, who described it as "one of the best days of my life."

The charity match featured current and former Test stars and several celebrities and was arranged to raise funds for the Sir Donald Bradman Museum at Bowral, southwest of Sydney.

Among those who played were Greg Chappell, Dennis Lillee, Graeme Pollock, Barry Richards, Sunil Gavaskar, Abdul Qadir and David Gower.

The Bradman XI made 269 all out and restricted the World XI to 268-7 in reply despite an innings of 72, including 14 fours, from Pollock, who was playing at the Sydney Cricket Ground for the first time in 30 years.



CHERCHEZ LA FEMME — 'Living Legend' Brian Lara is bowled out by Zoe Goss.

49ers clinch home-field playoff advantage with 10th straight win

NEW YORK (AP) — Steve Young threw three touchdown passes to lead the San Francisco 49ers to a 42-19 win over the Denver Broncos on Saturday. In an earlier game, Barry Sanders had TD runs of 18 and 64 yards to help the Detroit Lions rout the Minnesota Vikings 41-19.

The victories left Detroit and Minnesota tied for first place in the NFL's Central Division and gave San Francisco the home field advantage in the playoffs.

There is one week remaining in the NFL's regular season. Both the Lions and Minnesota have 9-6 records. Had the Vikings won, they would have clinched the division title. The Lions, averaging a 10-3 loss at Minnesota in the second week of the season, have won four straight games and seven of their

last nine games.

Young completed 20 of 29 throws for 350 yards, and Ricky Waters scored three times as the 49ers became the top-scoring club in franchise history. San Francisco's 491 points in 13 games topped the previous record of 475 by the 1984 Super Bowl team.

The victory was the 10th straight for San Francisco (13-2), which has outscored opponents by an average of 36.4 to 16.5 during the streak.

Denver, its 27th-ranked defense overwhelmed by the 49ers' precision attack, dropped to 7-8 and barely stayed in playoff contention.

Denver's John Elway, still bothered by a twisted left knee, had limited mobility and left the game early in the third quarter

after being sacked six times by San Francisco. Before being relieved by Hugh Millen, Elway was intercepted by Deion Sanders and fumbled on his first play from scrimmage, setting up a 49ers' score.

Millen helped Denver to a pair of third-quarter scores and extended his string of consecutive completions to 20 over two games before missing on a throw early in the fourth quarter to fall two shy of Joe Montana's NFL record.

Young had the NFL's top-ranked offense on the move quickly, and the 49ers took a 21-0 lead in the game's first 16 minutes.

Young, who is closing in on his fourth straight passing title, has thrown for 25 touchdowns to just three interceptions over the past 10 games.

Chelsea draws vs. Liverpool

LONDON (AP) — Liverpool squandered a chance to cut Blackburn's lead atop the Premier League standings yesterday by gaining only a 0-0 tie in a tedious game at Chelsea.

Fifth place Liverpool now has 33 points from 19 games, 10 fewer than Blackburn, which leads Manchester United by two.

Chelsea moved up one place to eighth.

In other action, Middlesbrough beat Burnley 3-0, Reading topped Wolverhampton 4-2 and West Bromwich edged Luton 1-0 in Division One. In Division Three, it was Mansfield 4, Chesterfield 2.

SCOREBOARD

LOCAL RUGBY — ASA Tel Aviv retained its unbeaten record by trouncing Maccabi Herzliya 34-4. Kibbutz Yisrael outplayed the Herta Technion 46-3 and Gali Ezyon was awarded a technical victory over the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, in Saturday's games.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	17	5	.773	0
New York	12	8	.600	4
Boston	10	13	.435	7.5
New Jersey	9	14	.391	8
Philadelphia	8	14	.364	9
Washington	6	13	.316	8.5
Miami	6	14	.300	10

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Indiana	14	6	.700	0
Cleveland	14	6	.692	1
Charlotte	12	10	.545	3
Chicago	11	10	.524	3.5
Detroit	9	12	.429	5.5
Atlanta	9	14	.391	6.5
Milwaukee	7	13	.350	7

ings. The Rockets have lost eight of 12 after opening the season with nine straight victories.

SuperSonics 124, Magic 84. Gary Payton had 31 points and a season-high seven steals as host Seattle held the Orlando Magic to a season low.

Payton scored 24 of his points in the first half as the Sonics took a 61-34 halftime lead. Kendall Gill scored 23 of his season-high 25 points in the second half for the Sonics, who won their sixth straight home game.

Shaquille O'Neal, the league's leading scorer, had 15 points after a 40-point effort Friday night at Golden State, a game in which the Magic had to come from behind to win in overtime.

Boston 112, Houston 109. Seattle 124, Orlando 84. San Antonio 116, LA Lakers 102. Minnesota 96, Washington 87. Miami 96, Atlanta 85. Detroit 97, Philadelphia 92. Charlotte 111, Denver 92. Utah 97, Chicago 89. Phoenix 109, Sacramento 98. Dallas 106, LA Clippers 87.

Celtics keep Rockets on skid

Spurs 116, Lakers 102. Dennis Rodman, playing in his third game since his latest suspension, scored 14 points and had a game-high 19 rebounds, helping San Antonio to a homecourt win.

The Spurs scored the final 7 points to pull away at the end. San Antonio's David Robinson led all scorers with 32 points and had 17 rebounds. Sean Elliott added 23 points, Vinny Del Negro 19 and Avery Johnson 15 as the Spurs won their fourth straight game.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	15	8	.652	0
Houston	13	8	.619	1
Dallas	11	8	.579	2
Denver	11	9	.550	2.5
San Antonio	8	14	.364	6
Minnesota	5	17	.227	9.5

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	17	6	.739	0
Seattle	14	7	.667	2.5
LA Lakers	13	8	.619	3
Portland	10	8	.556	5
Sacramento	11	10	.524	5.5
Golden State	8	14	.364	9
LA Clippers	3	19	.158	14

Six-stroke win for Els in Jamaica

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica (AP) — Two brilliant opening rounds were enough for Ernie Els, who won the Johnnie Walker World Championship yesterday with a routine 2-under-par 69 that gave him a six-shot triumph.

Els started the season-ending tournament with a pair of 64s. He had a seven-shot lead going into the final round and never led by fewer than five strokes in winning \$550,000 and yet another title. Els finished with a 72-hole total of 16-under 268.

In addition to the US Open, the South African won the World Match Play in October and the Gene Sarazen World Open two weeks later at Atlanta.

Mark McCumber and Nick Faldo each shot 67 to finish tied for second with 274. Ian Woosnam and Paul Azinger were another shot back after final-round 68s, tied with Brad Faxon, who fired a 64 to finish at 275.

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No strings to UN approval of peace process

ISRAEL got the approval it has long sought from the United Nations when the General Assembly passed a resolution last week supporting the peace process.

On the face of it, the resolution, which passed 149 to 4 on Friday, looks rather bland - more than a dozen paragraphs affirming the sentiment that peace is good.

What is critical, observers say, is that this resolution does not reiterate all the previous resolutions related to the conflict. Instead, it responds to the new realities by disregarding some resolutions that were drafted at the height of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Friday's resolution focused on more recent events: the Declara-

tion of Principles, the Cairo Agreement, and the Israel-Jordan peace treaty.

"This is a clean base of support from the international community without strings," said Avner Tavori, spokesman for Israel's mis-

sion to the UN. The United States was also pleased. In the UN debate last week, US representative Alan Parker had noted the US would not support some resolutions because they were "artifacts of an

earlier time" that had been overtaken by events on the ground. But two other resolutions passed by the General Assembly were reminiscent of traditional votes.

One, citing votes taken since 1980, declared null and void Israel's jurisdiction and administration of the "holy city" of Jeru-

salem. Some 138 nations supported the resolution, while two states - Israel and Costa Rica - voted against.

Another vote called for Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Israel and the US voted against it. Seventy-seven countries voted in favor, while 70 abstained.

PLO says Arafat, Rabin to meet about redeployment impasse

PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin are to meet on Wednesday to try to break the deadlock in negotiations over the IDF redeployment in Judea and Samaria, PLO officials said yesterday.

Rabin's office, however, said no such meeting has been scheduled.

*President Arafat and Mr. Ra-

bin will meet this week to discuss the peace talks, which are in trouble over [troop] redeployment," said Saeb Erekat, who is responsible for local government in the Palestinian Authority. Another PLO official said talks would take place at the Erez checkpoint.

"It will be a very crucial meeting, and let's hope this meeting will end up putting the peace pro-

cess back on track," said Erekat.

Israeli and PLO officials said during recent talks in Oslo that Arafat and Rabin had agreed to suspend peace talks in Cairo until high-level meetings resolved disputes over redeployment, which is meant to precede long-delayed elections for a Palestinian self-

rule council.

Israel has offered a temporary pullback from Arab centers on the eve of the elections, but the Palestinians have rejected this as a violation of the Israel-PLO accord.

In a meeting with foreign diplomats yesterday in Gaza, Arafat

told foreign diplomats that Palestinian elections could be held only after Israel withdrew permanently from Arab towns in the territories, a spokesman said.

Arafat met with consuls from the United States, Russia, and Europe at his office to discuss Palestinian problems in current negotiations.

"There is no mention in the

agreement of a partial withdrawal," said Arafat spokesman Marwan Kamfani.

"I think we are facing a big problem, different from the problems we faced in the past," he said. "In the past, we had differences in points of view on how to implement the agreement, but now the question is do we have an agreement or not?"

Palestinian policeman who shot soldier will be punished, say his superiors

ALON PINKAS

THE Palestinian policeman who shot and wounded an Israeli soldier Saturday in the Gaza Strip will be discharged and severely punished, Palestinian Police officials in Gaza said yesterday.

"We view this incident as very grave and thank God it ended the way it did, with no dead," said Suifan Abu Zaide, a spokesman for the Palestinian Authority, following a joint investigation conducted by Israel and the PA.

In the incident, which occurred near the Sufa roadblock south of Gush Katif, two soldiers were hurt; one was wounded in the leg and the second was hit in the face by a ricochet. Both were reported in fair condition.

The Palestinian policemen who shot by other IDF soldiers in the back and the neck and was listed in serious condition yesterday.

Upon approaching the roadblock, the policeman identified himself as "a policeman, who therefore is not required to identify himself," soldiers involved in the incident reported during their debriefing.

He reportedly warned that he would "count to 10," and then began harassing the soldiers who had stopped him at the roadblock before opening fire.

"I understand that he did what he did out of frustration," Abu Zaide said. Other Palestinian sources said the attacker was mentally disturbed.



Ramat Gan high school students pose for the camera in Jerusalem yesterday after a Yad Vashem ceremony honoring Righteous Gentile Eugenioz Chucherkis (center). The students first met him in Poland during a school trip. (Isaac Hazzari)

Survey shows 'Gush Emunim' more popular than Peace Now

HERB KEINON

GUSH Emunim is more popular than Peace Now among the 49 percent of the Jewish population who feel any affinity to extra-parliamentary movements, according to a survey released yesterday.

The survey, commissioned by Meimad, was carried out during the last week of November among a representative sample of

1,204 Jewish respondents.

It showed 17 percent of the population feels some sort of identification with Gush Emunim, 11% with Peace Now, 5% with the Third Way, and nearly 2% with Meimad. Fully 51% of the population do not feel affinity with any extra-parliamentary group.

This finding is considered espe-

cially interesting, since Gush Emunim has not existed for more than five years as a definable group with an office, secretariat, and leader.

According to the survey, 56% of the population feels there is a need for a "moderate" religious movement. The survey also pointed out that only 19% of the population have heard of Mei-

mad, an ideological movement headed by Rabbi Yehuda Amital, head of the Har Etzion Hesder Yeshiva, that calls itself the "Movement for Zionist Renewal." Meimad has come out in favor of the peace process.

According to the survey, "hard core support" for Meimad stands at some 1.3%, similar to what it, as a political party, garnered in the 1988 elections when it failed to capture a Knesset seat.

Cabinet approves more aid to Druse, Circassians

DAVID MAKOVSKY

DRUSE and Circassian villages will now receive the same annual fiscal assistance as Jewish ones, the cabinet confirmed yesterday, keeping a pledge made twice in the last seven years, but not pre-

viously carried out.

According to the deal, a joint team of governmental experts and leaders of the two groups will

meet to assess what is needed to attain the goal of equality within that period.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Meat, flour prices up

Flour prices rose last night at midnight an average of 6.7 percent, bread 4.9%, and frozen meat 5%, the Industry and Trade Ministry announced. A ministry economist said the flour price increase resulted from the seasonal price rise of imported wheat, while importing costs are also up for frozen meat.

Arab authorities want more money

The committee of the heads of Arab local authorities has asked the government to equalize the funding Arab authorities receive with that of Jewish and Druse authorities. The council is to meet with Police Minister Moshe Shahal on the issue at the end of the week.

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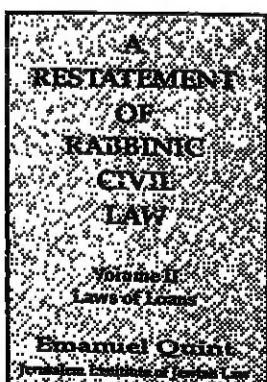
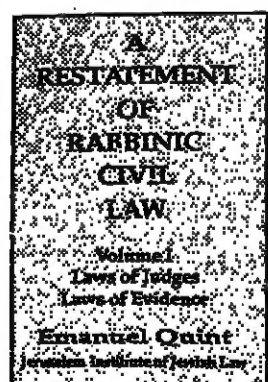
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